

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

On Friday, February 3, 2012 case IF-14-0001 was opened as a developmental case concerning the actions taken by governmental agency representatives prior to a number of vehicle crashes in the evening hours of Saturday, January 28, 2012 and early morning hours of Sunday January 29, 2012. These crashes occurred on a section of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve.

Reportedly, this section of Interstate 75 had been closed to vehicular traffic after a vehicle crash at approximately 2355 hours and re-opened at approximately 0326 hours with a number of fatal crashes occurring at approximately 0405 hours.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 1
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/03/2012	Activity End Date:02/03/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Case Opening

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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

On January 30, 2012, Florida Governor Rick Scott requested that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) investigate the governmental actions which relate to the fatal traffic crashes on Interstate 75 of January 29, 2012. The multiple fatality traffic crash on Interstate 75 occurred in the area of the Paynes Prairie Preserve in Alachua County, Florida.

Inspector Julio C. Saldanha, a member of the FDLE investigative team, was assigned the task of retrieving copies of weather advisories issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for the Alachua County area.

On February 6, 2012, Inspector Saldanha contacted the Jacksonville, Florida office of the NWS and spoke with Steve Letro, Meteorologist in Charge, and Peter Wolf, Science Operations Officer, regarding the LVORI. Letro and Wolf advised that the LVORI is utilized by the NWS as merely an indicator of relative risk. The weather advisory, which includes the LVORI, predicts weather in twelve-hour forecasts and encompasses a broad geographic area incorporating several counties (Baker, Union, Bradford and Alachua).

The LVORI is calculated from the Atmospheric Dispersion Index (ADI) and the relative humidity, and gages the probability of visibility restrictions due to fog or smoke (http://ncforestservice.gov/fire_control/fc_lvori.htm). As seen in the table below, there are 10 LVORI categories; ranging from 1 (indicating the lowest probability of visibility restrictions) to 10 (indicating the highest probability of visibility restrictions).

Low Visibility Occurrence Risk Index (LVORI)

LVORI Category	Interpretation
1	Lowest proportion of accidents with smoke and/or fog reported (130 of 127,604 accidents, or just over 0.0010 accidents.)
2	Physical or statistical reasons for not including in category 1, but proportion of accidents not significantly higher.
3	Higher proportion of accidents than category 1, by about 30% to 50%, but of marginal significance (1%-5%).
4	Significantly higher than category 1, by a factor of 2.
5	Significantly higher than category 1, by a factor of 3 to 10.
6	Significantly higher than category 1, by a factor of 10 to 20.
7	Significantly higher than category 1, by a factor of 20 to 40.
8	Significantly higher than category 1, by a factor of 40 to 75.
9	Significantly higher than category 1, by a factor of 75 to 125.

Case Number:IF-14-0001	Serial #:2
Author:Saldanha, Julio C	Office:Office Of Statewide Intell
Activity Start Date:02/06/2012	Activity End Date:02/08/2012

Approved By:Banks, Daniel Patrick

Description:Weather Advisories/LVORI

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IR Number:	2

10 Significantly higher than category 1, by a factor of 150.

The Atmospheric Dispersion Index (ADI or Dispersion Index) was designed as a measure to estimate the atmosphere's ability to ventilate smoke from areas of prescribed burning activity based on the surface wind speed. The United States Department of Agriculture utilizes the ADI as a means of allocating prescribed fire emissions within an area, according to prevailing weather conditions, to avoid regional smoke overload. The ADI is expressed as a numerical index. As seen in the following table, the higher the ADI, the more effective the atmospheric dispersion. A copy of the United States Department of Agriculture publication "An Atmospheric Dispersion Index for Prescribed Burning" will be maintained in the related items section of this case file.

Dispersion Index Interpretation

ADI value	Interpretation	Conditions
> 100	Very Good	May indirectly indicate hazardous conditions.
61-100	Good	Typical-case burning weather values are in this range.
41-60	Fair to Good	Climatological afternoon values in most inland forested areas of the U.S. are in this range.
21-40	Fair	Stagnation may be indicated if accompanied by persistent low wind speeds.
13-20	Poor to Fair	Stagnation if persistent, but better than average for a night value.
7-12	Poor	Stagnant at day, but near or average at night.
1-6	Very Poor	Very frequent at night (represents a majority of nights in many locations).

Peter Wolf forwarded copies via email of the NWS weather advisories issued from January 27, 2012, through January 30, 2012. The advisories included predictions for the LVORI and the ADI. A copy of the weather advisory will be maintained in the related items section of this case file. A second copy was forwarded to Special Agent Tim Elder at the Orlando Regional Operations Center. Inspector Saldanha reviewed the advisories and observed that for the morning hours of Sunday January 29, 2012, the LVORI was predicted at level 6 as noted below:

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IR Number:	2

Jan 28th:
 FLZ023-030-031-036-291130-
 BAKER-UNION-BRADFORD-ALACHUA-
 319 PM EST SAT JAN 28 2012

	TONIGHT <small>7pm Sat-7am Sun</small>	SUN <small>7am-7pm Sun</small>	SUN NIGHT <small>7pm Sun-7am Mon</small>	MON <small>7am-7pm Mon</small>
CLOUD COVER	MCLEAR	MCLEAR	MCLEAR	MCLEAR
CHANCE PRECIP (%)	0	0	0	0
WEATHER TYPE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
TEMP	39	68	31	68
RH (%)	86	24	86	21
20FT WND MPH (AM)		N 8		NE 4
20FT WND MPH (PM)	N 4	N 7	N 4	NE 8
PRECIP DURATION				
PRECIP BEGIN				
PRECIP END				
PRECIP AMOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAL	1	1	1	1
MIXING HEIGHT (FT-AGL)	400	4800	400	4800
TRANSPORT WND (MPH)	N 8	N 12	NE 9	E 15
DISPERSION INDEX	4	52	4	53
MAX LVORI	6		6	

REMARKS...NONE

Certified copies can be made available through the National Climatic Data Center if needed.
 Note: Steve Letro advised that at approximately 12:39 A.M. on Sunday January 29, 2012, the Florida Highway Patrol requested that the NWS disseminate a heavy smoke advisory for the area of Interstate 75 at the Paynes Prairie Preserve.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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On Thursday, February 9, 2012, an interview was conducted of Lieutenant John Gourley of the Florida Highway Patrol assigned to the Troop B, Gainesville Sub-District Office, 6300 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL., 32653-2117. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the state of Florida, Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL.

Present during the audio recorded sworn interview of Lieutenant Gourley were Special Agent (SA) Christopher Woehr and SA Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The audio recorded interview commenced at approximately 1310 hours and concluded at approximately 1421 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Lieutenant Gourley provided the following information:

Lieutenant Gourley has been employed with the Florida Highway Patrol for approximately 11 years and is currently assigned as a Lieutenant in the Gainesville office. Lieutenant Gourley was called on Sunday, January 29, 2012 at approximately 0030 hours by the FHP dispatch center and was provided a summary of the events concerning the US 441 and Interstate 75 closures. Lieutenant Gourley returned to duty at approximately 0115 hours on January 29, 2012. Prior to Lieutenant Gourley's return to duty, Sergeant Bruce Simmons was the supervising Trooper on duty who had requested the dispatch center to contact the Lieutenant at his home.

At the time of the Lieutenant's return to duty, both US 441 and Interstate 75 were closed and traffic was being re-routed. Gourley became aware of the crashes on both roadways and the visibility reduction on the Interstate. Gourley stated that the Alachua County Sheriff's Office had closed the Interstate prior to Sergeant Simmons arrival after the Interstate 75 crash at approximately 2330 hours on Saturday, January 28, 2012.

Lieutenant Gourley has not received any formal training concerning road closures or re-

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 3
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/09/2012	Activity End Date: 02/09/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Lieutenant John Gourley, FHP - Interview

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IR Number	3

opening of roadways. In the Lieutenant's 11 years of service, the Lieutenant has been involved in numerous road closure and re-opening events. Concerning the re-opening of a roadway, the Lieutenant is not aware of any agency policy or formal training and that a Trooper has to rely on the "judgment of the individual," which is based on experience and training of that individual.

Lieutenant Gourley made the decision to re-open Interstate 75 after approximately 20-25 minutes of clear visibility at approximately 0320 hours. The Lieutenant's main concern was the visibility through the Prairie area. After driving the area and having two mile clear visibility to observe the rest area's light; observation of radio tower lights a few miles away; and the wind pushing "everything out of the way from the road," the Lieutenant authorized the re-opening of the Interstate to traffic.

The Lieutenant had no direct contact with any representative of the Florida Forest Service (FFS) concerning the brush fire or its' containment. The Lieutenant believes that there were no FFS personnel still on duty at the brush fire site on US 441 during the early hours of January 29, 2012.

Lieutenant Gourley stated he is not familiar with Low Visibility Occurrence Risk Index (LVORI) and he has not received any training in the use of LVORI. In policy there is a reference to LVORI in the shift commanders check list for use by the radio room supervisor.

In summary, Lieutenant Gourley used his observations of the area of Interstate 75 in that there was approximately two and half miles of clear visibility for approximately 20-25 minutes in the area of the Prairie to direct the re-opening of the roadway. The Lieutenant did not consult directly with any other agencies prior to the re-opening. Approximately 40 minutes after the re-opening of Interstate 75, a number of crashes occurred with a number of fatalities.

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On Wednesday, February 15, 2012, an interview was conducted of Sergeant Bruce D. Simmons of the Florida Highway Patrol assigned to the Troop B, Cross City Station, 16106 SE Highway 19, Cross City, FL., 32628. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the state of Florida, Alachua Regional Service Center, office facility located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL.

Present during the audio recorded interview of Sergeant Simmons were Attorneys Ryan J. Peters and Jonathan S. Bense from the Law Office of Ryan J. Peters, 106 East Howard Street, Live Oak, FL., 32064, who were representing Simmons. Conducting the audio recorded interview of Sergeant Simmons was Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The audio recorded interview commenced at approximately 0900 hours and concluded at approximately 0944 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Sergeant Simmons provided the following information:

Sergeant Simmons was the supervisor for the nine county FHP district area which included Alachua County on Saturday, January 28, 2012. The Sergeant's shift began at 2200 hours on January 28, 2012. At the time of notice of the crash on US 441 south of Gainesville near Paynes Prairie, the Sergeant was one mile south of Chiefland, FL. assisting with a disabled motorist. The Sergeant described the information received as a "seven car pileup" on US 441, "that had the roadway shut down there." The Sergeant advised he "had no idea that there was smoke on the road." The Sergeant was then advised there was a crash on Interstate 75. Trooper Todd advised Sergeant Simmons, who had not yet arrived on scene of the crash on the Interstate, that the visibility was three feet or less. The Sergeant advised to close the roadway. While travelling to the scene, the Sergeant directed contact be made with Captain Fincher and Lieutenant Gourley, who were both advised of the events. The FDOT was also contacted.

The Sergeant advised that the opening of Interstate 75 was the decision of Lieutenant

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 4
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/15/2012	Activity End Date: 02/15/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Sergeant Simmons, FHP - Interview

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Gourley and that the Sergeant did not recall the timeframe of Lieutenant Gourley's conversation concerning the opening of Interstate 75. The Sergeant advised that the Lieutenant had "said something about opening the roadway and I advised him against that."

The Sergeant does not recall any formal training in road closure procedures. When asked concerning formal training, the Sergeant's response was "I'm not sure." The Sergeant added that reasons to close a roadway include "zero visibility, crashes, anything...anything that's unsafe."

The Sergeant stated he had "heard of it" when asked if he was familiar with Low Visibility Occurance Risk Index (LVORI) and does not "remember any training in the use of LVORI."

In summary, Sergeant Simmons was not in Alachua County at the time the crash on US 441 or the crash on Interstate 75 which both occurred just prior to midnight on January 28, 2012. The Sergeant received information from the Trooper at the scene and the decision was made for closure. These crashes and the low visibility caused the order to be issued to close the roadways. Notifications were made to the Troop Commander and District Lieutenant advising them of the situation. Sergeant Simmons does not recall any formal training on road closures or any training in the use of LVORI.

John L Gourley

Michael J Todd

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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On February 6, 2012, a request for information was directed to Major Jerry Craig, Marion County Sheriff's Office. The request was in the form of a letter from Inspector General Alfred Dennis of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The items requested were as follows:

1. All incident/accident reports for accidents occurring on Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours, to include a list of all vehicle operators and passengers, surviving and deceased.
2. List of all Marion County Sheriff's Office employees, assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours. List to include names, radio numbers, and all unique identifiers assigned by the Marion County Sheriff's Office.
3. Designated assignments, with locations, for all Marion County Sheriff's Office employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
4. List of all chain of command notifications made between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours, regarding the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, including originating person, contacted person, time of notification, method of notification and content.
5. Any and all information entered into records and notifications systems such as CAD, EOC Online, etc...regarding the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, which occurred between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
6. Copy of any and all Marion County Sheriff's Office policies and or procedures relating to road/highway/interstate closure and reopening protocols as well as smoke/fog incident protocols.
7. Any and all Communication Center communications between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours, including but not limited to 911 and non-emergency calls for service and police radio traffic.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 5
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/06/2012	Activity End Date: 02/16/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Marion County Sheriff's Office Documents

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8. Any and all police radio traffic, received or transmitted by the Marion County Sheriff's Office employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
9. Any and all in-vehicle video footage from any and all Marion County Sheriff's Office employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
10. Copies of any and all daily activity reports of all Marion County Sheriff's Office employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
11. Any and all policies, procedures and or training directives pertaining to the creation, implementation and usage of the LVORI matrix and or chart, and any other mechanism used to evaluate road closure and reopening.
12. Copy of any and all After Action Reports regarding the January, 2012, Interstate 75 accident/incident in Marion County, including any subsequent investigative findings, policy and or procedure recommendations or changes.

On Thursday, February 16, 2012, Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder met with Major Jerry Craig and Captain Fred Vyse of the Marion County Sheriff's Office. SA Elder was provided the following items which were listed in the letter dated February 6, 2012:

- Item 1 - No accident or incident reports were generated.
- Item 2 through Item 6 - Complete
- Item 7 and Item 8 – Radio and Telephone Provided (One Compact Disk)
- Item 9 - Not provided (No Video(s) Exists)
- Item 10 - CAD Event Report provided
- Item 11 - Policies and Procedures Provided (No Use of LVORI by MCSO)
- Item 12 – Not Provided (No After Action Report(s) Completed by MCSO)

All items provided by the Marion County Sheriff's Office will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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On Thursday, February 16, 2012 an interview was conducted of Lieutenant James Moran of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. The interview was conducted in the Crevasse Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL., 32641.

The audio recorded interview of Lieutenant Moran was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The recorded interview commenced at approximately 1310 hours and concluded at approximately 1355 hours. A copy of the audio recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Lieutenant Moran provided the following information:

Lieutenant Moran was the night and evening shift commander for the Sheriff's Office for January 28, 2012. Moran received a briefing from Lieutenant Maynard at approximately 1745 hours. This briefing included information concerning the Paynes Prairie brush fire; visibility difficulty on US 441 due to smoke; that FDOT had been notified concerning the placement of smoke signs; and that the fire departments were actively combatting the brush fire.

At approximately 2331 hours, Moran was notified of the crash on US 441 and Moran contacted FDOT concerning permission to close US 441. Moran authorized the closing of US 441 due to the visibility difficulty caused by the smoke from the brush fire on the Prairie. FHP Trooper Todd "worked" the crash on US 441.

At approximately 2353 hours, Moran was notified of the crash on Interstate 75. Moran remained on a traffic post, blocking traffic on US 441. Contact with Sergeant Powers revealed that Interstate 75 had visibility difficulty also. Moran advised Powers "if you have to shut down the Interstate, then shut the Interstate down cause I didn't want anybody getting, I didn't want anybody getting killed." Moran advised that Powers stated that "visibility was very poor and they had some close calls that were almost being struck by

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 6
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/16/2012	Activity End Date: 02/16/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Lieutenant JJ Moran, ACSO - Interview

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vehicles.”

At approximately 0230 hours, Moran spoke with Lieutenant Gourley by telephone and Moran expressed that US 441 “needs to stay closed.” Powers contacted Moran and advised that “they’re opening up the roadway’ to which replied “well that’s their call.”

At approximately 0400 hours, Gourley met Moran at Moran’s traffic post on US 441. Gourley agreed with Moran concerning the need for US 441 to remain closed.

A short time later, the calls for service concerning crashes on the Interstate were received and Lieutenant Gourley departed the area on US 441. Moran departed the area of US 441 and responded to Interstate 75.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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On Thursday, February 16, 2012, an interview was conducted of Lieutenant Steve Maynard of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. The interview was conducted in the Crevasse Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL., 32641.

The audio recorded interview of Lieutenant Maynard was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The recorded interview commenced at approximately 1423 hours and concluded at approximately 1440 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Lieutenant Maynard provided the following information:

Maynard was the District One Commander for the day shift on January 28, 2012 which was scheduled to end at 1800 hours. The first 911 call concerning the Paynes Prairie brush fire was at approximately 1437 hours. Maynard arrived on scene at approximately 1500 hours. A request from District Chief Stewart, Alachua County Fire Rescue to close a single lane of northbound US 441 was completed. Maynard observed a "tremendous amount of smoke" but it was not "obstructing traffic."

At approximately 1700 hours, contact was made with the Incident Commander at the fire scene and it was stated that the scene would be cleared by fire services in approximately an hour. Additionally, it was advised that the possibility of reduced visibility on US 441 and the term "inversion" was used to describe the visibility difficulty that was possible during the evening hours.

At approximately 1745 hours, Maynard briefed on-coming Shift Commander, Lieutenant Moran and advised that the roadway would need to be monitored throughout the night. Maynard concluded his shift at 1900 hours on January 28, 2012 and was then re-called to duty at 0450 hours due the 0400 hours crashes on Interstate 75 on January 29, 2012.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 7
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/16/2012	Activity End Date: 02/16/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Lieutenant Steve Maynard, ACSO - Interview

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On Friday, February 24, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Sergeant Sherry French, Alachua County Sheriff's Office. The interview was conducted in the L. J. "Lu" Hindery Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL.

The interview of Sergeant French began at approximately 1256 hours and concluded at approximately 1304 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Sergeant French was assigned to District 2 which encompasses the Paynes Prairie Preserve area of Alachua County. Sergeant French was on duty on Saturday, January 28, 2012 with a scheduled shift of 0600 hours to 1800 hours. A fire was reported in Paynes Prairie in the afternoon of Saturday, Sergeant French responded to the area of US 441 and observed a number of firefighting vehicles along the eastside of US 441. Sergeant French maintained a "roaming" post and advised that a single lane of the northbound lanes of US 441, nearest the fire site was closed to traffic. The purpose of this closure was for the unloading of the firefighting equipment and the safety of the fire crews.

At the end of Sergeant French's shift at 1800 hours, there had been no vehicle crashes in the area of the Paynes Prairie on US 441 or on Interstate 75 and there were no visibility difficulties reported on either roadway.

At approximately 0430/0500 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012, Sergeant French returned to duty earlier than the Sergeant's scheduled shift time of 0600 hours due to the events concerning several vehicle crashes on Interstate 75 near the area of Paynes Prairie.

Sergeant French did not assist or participate in the closure of US 441 or Interstate 75 on Saturday, January 28, 2012 or the re-opening of Interstate 75 on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 8
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/24/2012	Activity End Date:02/24/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Sergeant Sherry French, ACSO - Interview

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On February 6, 2012, a request for information was directed to Sheriff Sadie Darnell Alachua County Sheriff's Office. The request was in the form of a letter from Inspector General Alfred Dennis of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The items requested were as follows:

1. All incident/accident reports for accidents occurring on Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours, to include a list of all vehicle operators and passengers, surviving and deceased.
2. List of all Alachua County Sheriff's Office employees, assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours. List to include names, radio numbers, and all unique identifiers assigned by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.
3. Designated assignments, with locations, for all Alachua County Sheriff's Office employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
4. List of all chain of command notifications made between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours, regarding the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, including originating person, contacted person, time of notification, method of notification and content.
5. Any and all information entered into records and notifications systems such as CAD, EOC Online, etc...regarding the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, which occurred between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
6. Copy of any and all Alachua County Sheriff's Office policies and or procedures relating to road/highway/interstate closure and reopening protocols as well as smoke/fog incident protocols.
7. Any and all Communication Center communications between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours, including but not limited to 911 and non-emergency calls for service and police radio traffic.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 9
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/06/2012	Activity End Date:02/16/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Alachua County SO Documents Request & Receipt

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IR Number	9

8. Any and all police radio traffic, received or transmitted by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
9. Any and all in-vehicle video footage from any and all Alachua County Sheriff's Office employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
10. Copies of any and all daily activity reports of all Alachua County Sheriff's Office employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
11. Any and all policies, procedures and or training directives pertaining to the creation, implementation and usage of the LVORI matrix and or chart, and any other mechanism used to evaluate road closure and reopening.
12. Copy of any and all After Action Reports regarding the January, 2012, Interstate 75 accident/incident in Alachua County, including any subsequent investigative findings, policy and or procedure recommendations or changes.

On Thursday, February 16, 2012, Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder met with Major LeGran Hewitt and Lieutenant Steve Maynard of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. SA Elder was provided the following items which were listed in the letter dated February 6, 2012:

Item 1 through Item 5 – Provided

Item 6 – Not Provided (ACSO does not have any Policies/Procedures relating to road closure/re-opening protocols or smoke/fog incident protocols)

Item 7 and Item 8 – Provided (Twenty-two Compact Disks)

Item 9 – Provided (Seven DVD Disks)

Item 10 – Provided

Item 11 – Not Provided (No Use of LVORI by ACSO)

Item 12 – Provided (Five After-Action Report(s) Completed by ACSO)

All items provided by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Friday, February 24, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Sergeant Denise Scott, Alachua County Sheriff's Office. The interview was conducted in the L. J. "Lu" Hindery Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL.

The recorded interview of Sergeant Scott began at approximately 0954 hours and concluded at approximately 1024 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Scott was the District 2 Supervisor, which includes the Paynes Prairie area. Scott's shift began at 1800 hours on Saturday, January 28, 2012 and was scheduled to conclude at 0600 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012. As the "oncoming" shift supervisor, Scott was aware of the brush fire on Paynes Prairie near US 441. A member of Scott's squad relieved a Deputy who was posted earlier at the fire scene on US 441.

Scott responded to the 2330 hours crash reported on US 441 near the fire scene. Travelling to the crash scene, Scott advised that "I just hit a blackout" and directed responding units to slow down and to setup "roadblocks" so traffic "could not proceed into the area" due to "such low visibility."

Scott notified Lieutenant Moran, who was en route to the scene, of the situation at the scene. Florida Highway Patrol responded and investigated the crash. The crash scene was cleared and the roadway remained closed at the direction of Lieutenant Moran.

Scott travelled north from the crash scene to assist in the traffic roadblock at Rocky Point Road to stop traffic from entering the Paynes Prairie area from the north on US 441.

Scott remained in the area of US 441 until responding to Interstate 75 due to the 0400 hours crashes. Scott traveled south from exit 382 to the southbound crash scene. As Scott passed the rest areas, there was "visibility and then all of a sudden" the conditions became "a total blackout."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 10
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/24/2012	Activity End Date: 02/24/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Sergeant Denise Scott, ACSO - Interview

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Scott was not involved in any conversations concerning the visibility conditions on the roadways or whether to open or not to open these roadways.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
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On Friday, February 24, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Sergeant Brandon Kutner, Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO). The interview was conducted in the L. J. "Lu" Hindery Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL.

The recorded interview of Sergeant Kutner began at approximately 1140 hours and concluded at approximately 1154 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Sergeant Kutner is assigned to the ACSO Community Oriented Policing Squad. On Saturday, January 28, 2012, Kutner was working as a part-time dispatcher at the Alachua County Combined Communications Center. Kutner's shift was from 0700 hours to 1900 hours. Kutner had no law enforcement participation in the events of the evening hours of January 28, 2012 and has no knowledge of any of the events concerning the closure or the opening of Interstate 75 from 1900 hours, January 28, 2012 to 0700 hours, January 29, 2012.

Prior to 0700 hours, January 29, 2012, Kutner became aware of the events on the Interstate and contacted Lieutenant Oberlin to offer Community Oriented Policing resources to assist.

In summary Kutner did not actively participate in the law enforcement activities concerning the Interstate closure at approximately 2330 hours on January 28, 2012 or opening at approximately 0330 hours on January 29, 2012.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 11
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/24/2012	Activity End Date:02/24/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Sergeant Brandon Kutner, ASCO - Interview

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
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On Friday, February 24, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Lieutenant Kevin Oberlin, Alachua County Sheriff's Office. The interview was conducted in the L. J. "Lu" Hindery Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hathrone Road, Gainesville, FL. The audio recorded interview of Lieutenant Oberlin began at approximately 1115 hours and concluded at approximately 1126 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Oberlin responded to a fatal crash on Interstate 75 near the High Springs area in Alachua County. Lieutenant Maynard and Oberlin were at the High Springs scene when the report of the fire on Paynes Prairie was announced. Lieutenant Maynard responded to the fire scene to assist Oberlin's shift's Sergeant, Sergeant Sherry French.

Oberlin did not respond to the Paynes Prairie fire scene and Oberlin's shift had ended their tour of duty at 1800 hours on January 28, 2012, prior to the reported crashes on US 441 or Interstate 75 in the 2330 hours to 2355 hours timeframe on January 28, 2012.

Oberlin was contacted at approximately 0415 hours on January 29, 2012 by the Alachua County Combined Communication Center to report for duty early due the 0400 hours crashes on Interstate 75.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 12
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/24/2012	Activity End Date:02/24/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Lieutenant Kevin Oberlin, ACSO - Interview

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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On Friday, February 24, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Sergeant Mike Powers, Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO). The interview was conducted in the L. J. "Lu" Hindery Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL.

The recorded interview of Sergeant Powers began at approximately 1224 hours and concluded at approximately 1246 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

On January 28, 2012, Powers was the District One Supervisor. District One does not include the Paynes Prairie area. At the January 28, 2012, 1800 hours "roll call", Powers was briefed on the events of the day on Paynes Prairie concerning the brush fire.

At approximately 2330 hours, a crash was reported on US 441 at the south end of the Prairie. Powers responded and drove through the heavy smoke to a position south of the crash scene to block northbound traffic on US 441. Other ACSO units set up positions south of Powers and Powers surrendered his position on US 441.

Monitoring the radio, Powers' attention was then directed to Interstate 75 and the 2343 hours crash reported in Paynes Prairie. Powers traveled to the 374 exit of the Interstate and blocked northbound traffic and diverted traffic from the Interstate onto County Road 234.

Powers then drove north on the Interstate to the area of mile 377/378 and "saw a wall of smoke." Powers returned to the traffic post at exit 374 northbound and participated in the detour of traffic.

Just as Florida Department of Transportation was completing the placement of the transition cones and signage in the area of exit 374, Powers received a telephone call from Florida Highway Patrol Lieutenant Gourley advising that the Interstate was about to be opened for traffic. After receiving the information concerning the opening of the Interstate, Powers drove north and found that the "visibility was good."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 13
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/24/2012	Activity End Date:02/24/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Sergeant Mike Powers, ACSO - Interview

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After the opening of the Interstate, Powers travelled north through the Prairie, past the two rest areas to the Newberry Road exit and returned to duty in District One. Then a short time later, Powers returned to the area of the Paynes Prairie to assist with the situation of the 0400 hours, January 29, 2012 crash scenes.

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

On January 30, 2012, Florida Governor Rick Scott requested that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) investigate the governmental actions which relate to the fatal traffic crashes on Interstate 75 of January 29, 2012. The multiple fatality traffic crash on Interstate 75 occurred in the area of the Paynes Prairie Preserve in Alachua County, Florida.

Inspector Julio C. Saldanha was assigned the task of obtaining certified copies of Fire Weather Forecasts issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) on January 28 and January 29, 2012, for the Alachua County geographical area.

On February 21, 2012, Inspector Saldanha contacted Janet Wall, Records Custodian at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina, via telephone and email and requested certified copies of the aforementioned documents.

On March 2, 2012, the requested certified copies of the NWS Fire Weather Forecasts issued on January 28 and January 29, 2012, for the Alachua County geographical area arrived at FDLE Headquarters in Tallahassee, Florida, via US mail. Said documents were forwarded to SA Tim Elder for inclusion into the related items section of this case file. An electronic copy was submitted as related item.

Case Number:IF-14-0001	Serial #:14
Author:Saldanha, Julio C	Office:Office Of Statewide Intell
Activity Start Date:03/02/2012	Activity End Date:03/02/2012

Approved By:Banks, Daniel Patrick

Description:Certified copies of NWS Fire Weather Forecast

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, March 1, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Emergency Management Director David A. Donnelly, Alachua County Fire Rescue. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Alachua County Communications and Emergency Operations Center, 1100 SE 27th Street, Gainesville, FL.

The interview of Director Donnelly began at approximately 1300 hours and concluded at approximately 1325 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Director Donnelly became aware of a brush fire in the Paynes Prairie Preserve on Saturday, January 28, 2012 in the mid-afternoon through observation. As the Director was travelling into Gainesville, the Director observed the smoke and telephoned the emergency management office and received an update. The update detailed the brush fire as being on the east side of US 441 and moving in a south to southeast direction. Included in the briefing was that there were no visibility difficulties on US 441 and no crashes at that time reported. Director Donnelly did not respond to the area and the Alachua County Emergency Operations Center was not activated. Information concerning the brush fire was transmitted to the State Warning Point by the Alachua County Combined Communication Center (CCC).

Director Donnelly did receive notice of the US 441 vehicle crash and road closure in the time frame of 2330 hours on Saturday, January 28, 2012 but did not receive the notice of the Interstate 75 vehicle crash and road closure which occurred shortly after the US 441 vehicle crash.

Director Donnelly then next received notice of the multi-vehicle crashes on Interstate 75 which occurred at approximately 0400 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

The reports to the state warning point continued to be submitted by the staff of the CCC during this event. Director Donnelly advised that he had not been contacted directly by any law enforcement official or agency during this event and that he had been experiencing cellular telephone and text message reception difficulties and may have missed some of the

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 15
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/01/2012	Activity End Date:03/01/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:David Donnelly, Emergency Management Director, Alachua County - Interview

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notifications.

The Alachua County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was not activated during the time frame of Saturday, January 28, 2012 through Sunday, January 29, 2012.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, March 1, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Highway Maintenance Specialist Alan Martin. The interview was conducted in an office at the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Maintenance Office, 5301 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL.

FDOT Specialist Martin's daily duties are the supervision of five inmate road crews in Bradford and Alachua counties. The weekend of Saturday, January 28, 2012 through Sunday, January 29, 2012, Martin was the on-call supervisor for FDOT concerning responding to requests for signage, barricades, and traffic cones.

The recorded interview of Specialist Martin began at approximately 1430 hours and concluded at approximately 1503 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Martin was the "on-call" FDOT representative and was contacted at approximately 1522 hours by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office who were requesting smoke and fog signs be erected on US 441 near Paynes Prairie Preserve. The signs were in place by 1737 hours on both US 441 and Interstate 75.

At approximately 2344 hours, Martin received a call from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office requesting permission to close US 441. Martin advised he does not have the authority to close a roadway. At approximately 0005 hours on January 29, 2012, Martin received a call from the Florida Highway Patrol advising that Interstate 75 was being closed and requested FDOT assistance.

Martin began contacting FDOT members to assist in the request from the FHP. Martin arrived at approximately 0300 hours to place cones and items for the transition of the traffic flow from the Interstate.

At approximately 0334 hours, Martin was advised that the roadway was to be re-opened. After the re-opening of the roadway, Martin drove south on the Interstate from the

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 16
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/01/2012	Activity End Date: 03/01/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Alan Martin, FDOT - Interview

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southbound rest area through Paynes Prairie to the Micanopy exit. On the return trip northbound on the Interstate, Martin was nearly involved in a crash as Martin ran into “solid smoke and fog.” Martin was able to drive through at an “idling” speed. Martin remarked that during the drive south, both lanes were clear and then on the return trip northbound, the Prairie had no visibility.

Martin is not familiar with the Highway Safety Smoke Management Agreement dated June 2009.

In summary, Martin was requested to place signage on US 441 due to the Boardwalk Fire, as named by the Florida Forest Service and also placed signage on Interstate 75 announcing a smoke and fog danger. Martin was not consulted concerning re-opening the Interstate but he was advised it was occurring.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, March 8, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Jeff DiMaggio, Fire Management Officer, Division of Recreation and Parks of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The interview was conducted in the office of the Park Manager at the Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, 100 Savannah Boulevard, Micanopy, FL.

The audio recorded interview of Officer DiMaggio began at approximately 0806 hours and concluded at approximately 0822 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

DiMaggio was notified of the January 28, 2012 Boardwalk Fire, as named by the Florida Forest Service on the Paynes Prairie Preserve via an email that Park Manager David Jowers had authored. This summary advised that the Florida Forest Service and Alachua County Fire Rescue were on scene at the fire site. The notice included information that the fire did not threaten any structures and was contained in the basin of the Paynes Prairie.

DiMaggio did not respond to the fire scene on Saturday, January 28, 2012 but was provided progress reports during the course of the day by Jowers. DiMaggio did respond to the fire scene on January 29, 2012, arriving at approximately 1300 hours.

DiMaggio was not contacted or consulted either for the road closures of US 441 or Interstate 75 or the opening of Interstate 75.

DiMaggio is familiar with both Low Visibility Occurance Risk Index (LVORI) and the Highway Safety Smoke Management Interagency Agreement. DiMaggio stated that the LVORI index is used in the preparation for a prescribed burn. In reference to the Interagency Agreement, DiMaggio advised that the Department of Environmental Protection is bound by statute to meet all Florida Forest Service regulations.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 17
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/08/2012	Activity End Date: 03/08/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Jeff DiMaggio, DEP - Interview

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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On Thursday, March 8, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Park Manager David W. Jowers, Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, Department of Environmental Protection. The interview was conducted in the Park Manager's office at the Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, 100 Savannah Boulevard, Micanopy, FL.

The audio recorded interview of Park Manager Jowers began at approximately 0850 hours and concluded at approximately 0916 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

On Saturday, January 28, 2012, Jowers was out of the area and received a telephone voice mail notice of the Paynes Prairie fire at approximately 1545 hours. The message was originally delivered at approximately 1449 hours. Upon receiving the information, Jowers returned to Alachua County and reported to the fire scene at approximately 1745 hours.

Jowers received information from his Assistant Park Manager that all appropriate contacts had been made and that the Alachua County Fire Department and the Florida Forest Service were combating the fire.

Upon arrival, Jowers met with Forest Area Supervisor Rittenhouse who provided a briefing of the activity to that point and the plans for containment and extinguishing the fire. Information was provided that smoke signs had been requested for the area.

Jowers advised that he made contact with a Lieutenant with the Florida Park Police.

Jowers departed the fire scene at approximately 2100 hours and the conditions were clear with "no impact, smoke impact of visibility on the highway at that time."

Jowers is familiar with the term "inversion" and its effect on visibility as in "it kinda pushes the smoke or fog or whatever that happens to the ground." Jowers advised that this phenomenon "is common" here on Paynes Prairie.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 18
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/08/2012	Activity End Date:03/08/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:David Jowers, DEP - Interview

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Jowers is familiar with the Low Visibility Occurrence Risk Index (LVORI) and its use concerning prescribed burns which the park service participates in.

Jowers has "heard of" the Highway Safety Smoke Interagency Agreement but is "not familiar with it."

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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On Thursday, March 1, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Senior Forest Ranger David Wayne Smith. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Florida Forest Service (FFS), Waccassassa District Office, 5353 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL.

The audio recorded interview of Ranger Smith began at approximately 0839 hours and concluded at approximately 0918 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Ranger Smith received the first notice of the brush fire on Paynes Prairie at approximately 1505 hours and the fire had been reported to the Forest Service at approximately 1451 hours. Smith arrived on scene at approximately 1510 hours. Upon arrival, Smith met with Alachua County Fire Rescue District Chief Larry Stewart along with Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park's Park Manager David Jowers. A briefing was provided to Smith. A request was made by Chief Stewart to have a portion of the northbound lanes of US 441 be closed to vehicular traffic to permit the unloading of firefighting equipment and for the safety of the personnel present.

Florida Forest Service "OIC," Officer in Charge "Butch" Hall arrived at 1620 hours followed by Forest Area Supervisor James Rittenhouse at 1633 hours. Rittenhouse became the Incident Commander and Smith moved into the Prairie operating a trailer plow unit cutting a fire line. Smith continued that duty until containment of the fire was accomplished.

Smith is familiar with Low Visibility Occurrence Risk Index (LVORI) in the respect of its use during prescribed burns situations along the use of dispersion calculations. Smith is familiar with the Highway Safety Smoke Management Interagency Agreement in the respect that the Forest Service Duty Officers/Dispatchers make the required notifications.

The Boardwalk Fire, as named by the FFS, was "contained" at approximately 1942 hours and Smith departed the fire area at approximately 1957 hours. At the time of departure, the smoke was rising, not involving the roadway of US 441 or Interstate 75.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 19
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/01/2012	Activity End Date: 03/01/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Wayne Smith, FFS - Interview

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, March 1, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Forest Area Supervisor James Rittenhouse. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Florida Forest Service (FFS), Waccassassa District Office, 5353 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL.

The recorded interview of Supervisor Rittenhouse began at approximately 0951 hours and concluded at approximately 1021 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Rittenhouse arrived on scene at the Boardwalk Fire on the Prairie, as named by the FFS, at approximately 1633 hours. The fire was first reported to the FFS at approximately 1447 hours with Ranger Wayne Smith being the "initial attack" resource at the Boardwalk Fire scene. The Officer in Charge, (OIC) Butch Hall arrived at approximately 1620 hours.

A briefing was held at the time of Rittenhouse's arrival and tactics were discussed and set for combating the fire. At one point, a single lane of northbound US 441 was closed for the safety of firefighters and the unloading of their equipment. Smoke signs which were requested and were erected at both the north and south sides of Paynes Prairie on US 441.

The Boardwalk Fire was determined to be "contained" at approximately 1942 hours. The meaning of "contained" as provided by Rittenhouse means that the progress of the fire has been stopped. Containment does not mean that the fire is extinguished or that it is not continuing to produce smoke.

At approximately 2000 hours, the resources of the FFS were the process of departing the area of the fire. Rittenhouse provided a briefing report on the fire situation through the Forest Service Duty Officer McCarty to Florida Highway Patrol Duty Officer Cooper at approximately 2009 hours. This report included that there would be "possible smoke" on "Highway 441 and I-75 and during the night and in a.m."

Rittenhouse is familiar with Low Visibility Occurrence Risk Index (LVORI) and advised it is

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 20
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/01/2012	Activity End Date: 03/01/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: James Rittenhouse, FFS - Interview

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used as a tool when the Forest Service is involved in "prescribed burns." Rittenhouse remarked that the LVORI index number for the evening on January 28, 2012 was listed as a "6."

Rittenhouse is familiar with the Highway Safety Smoke Management Interagency Agreement. Rittenhouse advised that the agreement sets protocols for the Forest Service for the notification of other agencies of any impending smoke situations.

Rittenhouse described "inversion" as the settling of the atmosphere in an area which will cause any smoke to "settle in a area" and that the "smoke" would "lay down."

Rittenhouse described Paynes Prairie as "basically a big basin" that is a "tyically a foggy area" without "any smoke."

Rittenhouse advised that FFS personnel always consider weather conditions during a fire event. Rittenhouse stated that it is a "just standard thing, we always check on weather when we're on fires" and adding that "we always ask for weather before we leave any fire, prescribed fire, for that night time to, to that's important we always look at the, the wind direction you know the dispersion index, the LOVRI," and "see what's the smoke gonna do."

Rittenhouse stated that Ranger Wayne Smith would have obtained this information due to "we obtained this every morning and every afternoon, we get an updated weather" reports which are produced by the National Weather Service (NWS). Rittenhouse added that the NWS can also provide spot weather forecasts.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, March 8, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of Forest Area Supervisor Theodore "Butch" Hall. The interview was conducted in Supervisor Hall's office in the Ocala Forestry Station, 2735 East Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, FL.

The audio recorded interview of Supervisor Hall began at approximately 1030 hours and concluded at approximately 1103 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Forest Area Supervisor Hall was "on-call" the weekend of January 28-29, 2012 and responded as the "OIC," the Officer in Charge, to the Boardwalk Fire, as named by the Florida Forest Service (FFS). Hall was notified of the fire at approximately 1547 hours and arrived at approximately 1620 hours.

Once on scene, Hall assessed the situation and holding a briefing with Ranger Wayne Smith and Supervisor James Rittenhouse where the tactics were set to combat the fire.

The fire was listed as "contained" at approximately 1942 hours. Hall advised that at that time there was "no activity on I-75" and "as a precaution we wanted to make sure we had smoke signs and things in place to also monitor 75 due to the close proximity of the fire" that it would "probably impact 75 with smoke also throughout the night." Hall was released from the fire scene and departed Paynes Prairie at approximately 1946 hours.

Hall is familiar with both the Low Visibility Occurrence Risk Index (LVORI) and its use by the Florida Forest Service. Hall is "somewhat familiar with" the Highway Safety Smoke Interagency Agreement as it pertains to law enforcement's responsibility in road closures and the posting of and size of signs by Florida Department of Transportation.

Later, Hall was contacted by Rittenhouse who provided the information that smoke had impacted both Interstate 75 and US 441 resulting in a number of crashes and the possibility of numerous fatalities.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 21
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/08/2012	Activity End Date: 03/08/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Theodore "Butch" Hall, FFS - Interview

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On February 20, 2012, a request for information was directed to Records Coordinator Claudia Hendrix, Gainesville Police Department. The request was in the form of a letter from Inspector General Alfred Dennis of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The items requested were as follows:

1. All incident/accident reports for accidents occurring on Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours, to include a list of all vehicle operators and passengers, surviving and deceased.
2. List of all Gainesville Police Department employees, assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours. List to include names, radio numbers, and all unique identifiers assigned by the Gainesville Police Department.
3. Designated assignments, with locations, for all Gainesville Police Department employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
4. List of all chain of command notifications made between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours, regarding the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, including originating person, contacted person, time of notification, method of notification and content.
5. Any and all information entered into records and notifications systems such as CAD, EOC Online, etc...regarding the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, which occurred between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
6. Copy of any and all Gainesville Police Department policies and or procedures relating to road/highway/interstate closure and reopening protocols as well as smoke/fog incident protocols.
7. Any and all Communication Center communications between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours, including but not limited to 911 and non-

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 22
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/20/2012	Activity End Date: 03/14/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Gainesville Police Department, Document Receipt

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emergency calls for service and police radio traffic.

8. Any and all police radio traffic, received or transmitted by the Gainesville Police Department employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
9. Any and all in-vehicle video footage from any and all Gainesville Police Department employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
10. Copies of any and all daily activity reports of all Gainesville Police Department employees assigned to or responding to the area of Interstate 75, between mile marker 358 and mile marker 399, between January 28, 2012 at 1800 hours and January 29, 2012 at 0600 hours.
11. Any and all policies, procedures and or training directives pertaining to the creation, implementation and usage of the LVORI matrix and or chart, and any other mechanism used to evaluate road closure and reopening.
12. Copy of any and all After Action Reports regarding the January, 2012, Interstate 75 accident/incident in Marion County, including any subsequent investigative findings, policy and or procedure recommendations or changes.

On Wednesday, March 14, 2012, Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder met with Records Coordinator Claudia Hendrix of the Gainesville Police Department. SA Elder was provided the following items which were requested in the letter dated February 20, 2012:

Item 1 - Not Provided (No Incident/Accident Reports were completed by GPD)

Item 2 - List Provided (Eighteen names listed)

Item 3 - Not Provided (Explanation provided of Requested Information desired, GPD to attempt to provide)

Item 4 - Not Provided

Item 5 - 7 - 8 Six Compact Disks Provided, Described as follows:

Disk 1 - GPD Radio Ch 1; 1/28; 1800-2359 (3 tracks)

Disk 2 - GPD Radio Ch 1; 1/29; 0000-0600 (3 tracks)

Disk 3 - GPD Radio Ch 2; 1/28 & 1/29; 1800-0600 (3 tracks)

Disk 4 - GPD Radio Ch 3, Ch 4, TTY Phone Calls; 1/28 & 1/29;
1800-0600

Disk 5 - GPD Radio Ch 5; 1/28; 1800-2359

Disk 6 - GPD Radio Ch 6; 1/29; 000-0600

Item 6 - Provided (GPD, General Order 40.11, "Official Emergency Notifications)

Item 9 - Provided (Single Compact Disk)

Item 10 - Not Provided

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Item 11 - Not Provided (No Use of LVORI by GPD)

Item 12 - Provided (No After Action Report(s) Completed by GPD; Received an
After Action completed by Gainesville Public Works)

All items provided by the Gainesville Police Department will be placed in the Related Items
section of the case file.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Monday, March 19, 2012, an interview was conducted of Sergeant Shawn McCoy of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. The interview was conducted in the Crevasse Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL., 32641.

The audio recorded interview of Sergeant McCoy was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The recorded interview commenced at approximately 1157 hours and concluded at approximately 1215 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Sergeant McCoy provided the following information:

Sergeant McCoy was on duty Saturday, January 28, 2012 as an evening shift supervisor in District 2 along with Sergeant Denise Scott. McCoy's shift began at 1400 hours of Saturday, Saturday January 28, 2012 and was scheduled to end at 0200 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012. The shift briefing held at 1400 hours did not include information concerning a fire in Paynes Prairie. At approximately 1500 hours, some of the day shift deputies, supervised by Sergeant Sherry French were dispatched to the area of Paynes Prairie due to a brush fire. Sergeant McCoy spoke to Lieutenant Maynard and advised that McCoy was going to assess the area. McCoy observed the Florida Forest Service (FFS) on scene with heavy smoke being generated from the fire.

At approximately 1900 hours, the deputies assigned to traffic control at the fire scene were released. The FFS equipment was clear of the roadway and there was no smoke or smog obstructing travel either northbound or southbound on US 441.

At approximately 2330 hours, a crash was reported in the area of Paynes Prairie on US 441 and the first deputy who arrived to the crash scene, observed zero visibility. At this time, McCoy and Lieutenant Moran made the decision to close the roadway to traffic due to the visibility difficulties.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 23
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/19/2012	Activity End Date: 03/19/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Sergeant Shawn McCoy, ACSO - Interview

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After the closure of the roadway, semi traffic was observed attempting to travel south on US 441. McCoy responded to Interstate 75 and found that that the Interstate roadway was closed to traffic.

At approximately 0230 or 0245 hours, McCoy was approached by a Trooper who asked the location on Lieutenant Moran. McCoy advised that Moran was still on a traffic post at Rocky Point Road at US 441.

McCoy does not recall any request for Alachua County deputies to remain on post and monitor the Interstate prior to his release from duty. McCoy was released from duty at approximately 0330 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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On Friday, March 16, 2012, an interview was conducted of Captain Coby Fincher, Gainesville District Commander, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Troop B, Gainesville Sub-District Office, 6300 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL., 32653-2117. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Florida Highway Patrol, Ocala Station, 600 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL. 34471-2688.

The audio recorded sworn interview of Captain Fincher was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The audio recorded interview commenced at approximately 1447 hours and concluded at approximately 1550 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Captain Fincher provided the following information:

Captain Fincher has been employed with the Florida Highway Patrol for approximately 20 years and is currently assigned as the Gainesville District Commander. Captain Fincher was first contacted on Sunday, January 29, 2012 at approximately 0009 hours by the Jacksonville Regional Communications Center (JRCC) and a message to contact Sergeant Simmons, the midnight FHP District Sergeant. When contacted at approximately 0012 hours, Simmons advised that Simmons was traveling to Gainesville from Cross City due to a fire and that the Interstate may be "shutting down."

After speaking to Simmons, Fincher contacted FHP Lieutenant Gourley and advised Gourley "that the Interstate had been closed" due to "some type of smoke issue." Gourley advised Fincher that Gourley was "going to be coming out and going up to the area."

The next contact with Gourley was a 0426 hours telephone call where Gourley advised that the Interstate had been reopened and "that smoke had drifted back over the Interstate and that they had multiple fatality or multiple crashes with possible fatalities involved in them."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 24
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/16/2012	Activity End Date:03/16/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Captain Coby Fincher, FHP - Interview

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When asked if Simmons was the shift commander for the nine counties of Troop B that evening, Fincher advised that "the terminology varies on whose saying it." Fincher added, "it would be viewed as the shift commander or the troop sergeant for the troop" and stated that "he'd be the shift sergeant."

Concerning the authority to close or open a roadway, Fincher advised that "anybody can open a roadway with our agency, a trooper can make the call to open a roadway." Concerning training for roadway closure or reopening Fincher advised that "the only thing that we've got that as far as policies are traffic control and direction policy" that "nothing in policy that dictates how to shut a road down when you have an event like this."

Fincher explained that the Policy 17.14, Shift Commander Protocol was "designed originally for shift commander in the radio room." When asked about page 19 (Checklist - Major Road Closure) and then page 27 (Checklist - Smoke/Fog Incidents), of the Shift Commander Protocol Policy, Fincher advised that "everybody signs off that they're read the policies, it's interpretable as to what applies to anybody at any given time when you're looking this, if I may." Fincher continued by stating "this is designed as a guide you know it's nothing that's astringently adhered to unless I'm missing something or haven't read it." Fincher advised that Simmons would not be considered a shift commander as to the "purposes of the application of that policy, in my opinion."

Fincher recounted a meeting at the Gainesville FHP Station where Simmons advised that Simmons had made negative and false comments which were recorded on Simmons' in-car video. The comments concerned criticism of Gourley for reopening of the Interstate. Simmons stated to Fincher that Simmons did not speak to Gourley about any concerns prior to the opening and that Simmons' comments were inappropriate and inaccurate.

A copy of the sworn recorded interview and copy of the transcript will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Tuesday, March 20, 2012, an interview was conducted of Lieutenant (Lt) Maritza Gonzalez of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Troop G, Jacksonville Regional Communication Center (JRCC), 908 North Jefferson Street, Building F, Jacksonville, FL. The sworn audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder commenced at approximately 1426 hours and was concluded at approximately 1510 hours.

The summary of the interview of Gonzalez is as follows:

Lieutenant Gonzalez transferred to Jacksonville, Troop G two years ago from south Florida and was assigned to the JRCC. As the Lieutenant, Gonzalez "oversees the administrative functions of the Communications Center." Gonzalez was not on duty on Saturday, January 28 or 29, 2012.

In discussion concerning the FHP Policy 17.14, "Shift Commander Protocol," Gonzalez advised that "all district lieutenants are shift commanders" and "there's a shift commander every day assigned on a schedule and basically if something happens" for a geographic area. Concerning the Policy, Gonzalez stated "what it says is not what's happening, OK."

Gonzalez advised that the duty officers are provided training on the operation of each of the JRCC's console prior being assigned a console without direct supervision. This training "on average take six, seven months and they get extended, they can go all the way up to a year sitting with another duty officer going over every console and all geography." This training also includes "ride-a-longs too during the year period and they get to ride with Troop G and Troop B officers so they learn the area."

In discussion concerning CAD entries, Gonzalez advised that the duty officers "would try to put as much, you know, information that they're getting from, you know, the caller into the call." At this point Gonzalez was asked to comment on the 2002 hours telephone call received by the JRCC on January 28, 2012 from the Florida Forest Service. Gonzalez did not think the CAD entry was "particularly" sufficient as compared to the information provided

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 25
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/20/2012	Activity End Date: 03/20/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Lieutenant Maritza Gonzalez, FHP - Interview

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IR Number	25

in the telephone call. Gonzalez added that "your job is to put out the way you get it."

A copy of the sworn recorded interview and copy of the transcript will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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On Tuesday, March 20, 2012 an interview was conducted of Duty Officer (DO) Harvey K. Pittman of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Jacksonville Regional Communication Center (JRCC), 908 North Jefferson Street, Building F, Jacksonville, FL. The audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder commenced at approximately 1535 hours which was paused at approximately 1541 hours and then continued at approximately 1551 hours and concluded at approximately 1600 hours.

On Wednesday, March 28, 2012, a second audio recorded interview was conducted of Pittman by SA Elder which commenced at approximately 1703 hours and concluded at approximately 1742 hours.

The summary of the first interview of Pittman is as follows:

Pittman was on duty at the JRCC on Saturday, January 28, 2012, assigned to the Alachua County console. Pittman's shift began at 2125 hours and ended at 0525 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012. Pittman relieved Duty Officer Rickey Skinner on the Alachua console. The evening acting duty officer supervisor for Pittman's shift was Edward Sullivan.

Pittman recalls being "briefed on there was smoke in the area" of "south 75, in Alachua" which included US 441.

Speaking of training Pittman advised that duty officers "train for at least six months, sometimes maybe it's, you know, five to six to seven months" and "that is rotating from console to console."

When asked specifically about the 2002 hours telephone call on January 28, 2012 from the Florida Forest Service (FFS) to the JRCC announcing that the FFS were departing the area of the Paynes Prairie fire along with other information, Pittman states he does not "know anything about that." Pittman does recall Skinner "telling me there was smoke in the area" of Paynes Prairie.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 26
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/20/2012	Activity End Date: 03/28/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Duty Officer Pittman, FHP - Interview

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The following is a summary of the second interview with Pittman:

At approximately 2335 hours on Saturday, January 28, 2012, a report of a crash on US 441 was received from the Alachua County Combined Communications Center. Trooper Downing was assigned the crash investigation. Trooper Downing advised that US 441 was closed was closed northbound and southbound.

At approximately 2354 hours on Saturday, January 28, 2012, a report of a crash southbound on Interstate 75.

After the Interstate crash was reported, the Interstate 75 was closed to traffic. The Interstate remained closed until approximately 0326 hours, Sunday, January 29, 2012 when at the direction of Lieutenant Gourley, the Interstate was re-opened.

At approximately 0422 hours, the Interstate was closed at the direction Gourley due to visibility difficulties and additional crashes. Steven M Downing

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On Monday, March 19, 2012 an interview was conducted of Deputy Jake Skelly of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO). The interview was conducted in the Crevasse Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL., 32641.

The audio recorded interview of Deputy Skelly was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The recorded interview commenced at approximately 1400 hours and concluded at approximately 1429 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary, Deputy Skelly provided the following information:

Skelly was on duty as a patrol deputy in District 2 in Alachua County on Saturday 28, 2012. Skelly's shift began at 1800 hours and was scheduled to end at 0600 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012. During Skelly's shift briefing, information was provided concerning a brush fire in the Paynes Prairie area and that there would be "some smoke throughout the day."

Skelly recalls at approximately 2330 hours a report of a crash on US 441 and then a short time later, a crash on Interstate 75. Skelly responded to the crash on Interstate 75. Skelly was "posted" just south of the southbound rest area blocking traffic. Skelly recalls "that both sides were shut down due to smoke." Skelly maintained that post for approximately two hours and cleared the post when "FHP had come to us and told us that they were going to re-open the roadway."

At the time of the re-opening, Skelly states that "the smoke was light" and the roadway was "drivable." Skelly stated that "it is very possible that, you know the right gust of wind could have blown it back in" and added "it was questionable at the time but I just followed what, you know FHP is the authority on that road and they say they are going to open it, I'm not going to stop them."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 27
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/19/2012	Activity End Date:03/19/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Deputy Jake Skelly, ACSO - Interview

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Skelly described the re-opening as a "rolling re-opening" permitting the stopped vehicles to follow the patrol vehicles south to the Micanopy area south of the Prairie. After escorting the stopped vehicles south, Skelly then drove north back through the Prairie where the "conditions were favorable" and stated "I think there was very light smoke or fog." After the re-opening Skelly returned to his normal patrol duties in District 2.

Skelly does not recall any discussion with any representative of Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) or the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) concerning a request that Skelly monitor the roadway after it was re-opened.

Skelly recalls speaking with a FHP Sergeant who was "kind of frantic." This conversation occurred after Skelly's return to the Interstate due to the 0400 hours crashes and road closure. Skelly recalls that the Sergeant was "very frantic in the car" and the Sergeant said "I told them they should have kept it closed." Skelly describes that Skelly and the Sergeant were parked near the emergency lane, southbound just in front of the smoke.

Skelly recalled that the Sergeant said something to the effect of "you can't go in there, it's too bad."

Skelly stated that he was confused about what the Sergeant "was saying and why he wasn't going in" and the Sergeant stated that Skelly "couldn't go in there." Skelly advised that other Alachua County Sheriff's Office units arrived at his location and Skelly accompanied them into the smoke area.

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On Friday, February 24, 2012, Special (SA) Tim H. Elder conducted an interview of District Chief Larry Stewart, Alachua County Fire/Rescue Services. The interview was conducted in the L. J. "Lu" Hindery Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL.

The recorded interview of District Chief Stewart began at approximately 1407 hours and concluded at approximately 1457 hours. A summary of the interview is as follows:

Chief Stewart responded to the Boardwalk Fire, as named by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) in the Paynes Prairie Preserve in the afternoon of Saturday, January 28, 2012. The fire was first reported as a small brush fire on the edge of the prairie. The first fire unit to arrive was the Micanopy Fire Department and then Alachua County Engine 15 arrived. Engine 15 reported that the fire was just south of the boardwalk and quarter acre in size and was traveling south. Additional resources were requested from the Florida Forest Service along with notifying the Florida Park Service.

Upon arrival on scene, Chief Stewart requested the Alachua County Sheriff's Office for assistance in closing a single lane of northbound US 441 to facilitate the safety for the firefighters and the unloading of their equipment.

Area Forest Supervisor Rittenhouse of the Florida Forest Service arrived and began directing the resources on the fire scene.

Stewart explained that his resources are trained to combat structural fires and their equipment was not very well suited for combatting the fire in the prairie.

Stewart departed the area of the fire at approximately 1900 hours with the Florida Forest Service still on scene. Chief Stewart returned to the fire scene area at approximately midnight due to a vehicle crash on US 441.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 28
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/24/2012	Activity End Date:02/24/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: District Chief Larry Stewart - Interview

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At the time of Stewart's return, he observed "very heavy smoke conditions, specifically on the south side of the prairie on 441." Stewart advised that "visibility was fine until you got down into the middle of the prairie and then very quickly it went from normal nighttime, see a good distance to just south of the boardwalk, it got very, very difficult to see..."

After departing the crash scene on US 441, Stewart met Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Lieutenant Moran at Rocky Point Road and confirmed that US 441 was closed to vehicle traffic and to express the "severity" of the visibility difficulties. Moran advised "absolutely this road is closed."

Stewart advised that he has heard of Low Visibility Occurrence Risk Index (LVORI) but he is not familiar with it and has not had any experience working with it.

Stewart advised "when I went to bed at two that morning, I was convinced those roads were, were closed for the rest of the night, I really was." Stewart added, "I had no idea if the roads had reopened and I didn't think that they would have been reopened."

Stewart added that reduced wind speeds are "clear indications that you're gonna get an inversion layer" and that when the wind speeds dropped "to zero, that's what caused everything to settle." Also the fire "was still producing the significant amount of smoke."

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
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On Monday March 19, 2012 an interview was conducted of Sergeant Scott Ulrich of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO). The interview was conducted in the Crevasse Conference Room of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL., 32641.

The audio recorded interview of Sergeant Ulrich was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The recorded interview commenced at approximately 1305 hours and concluded at approximately 1325 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary, Sergeant Ulrich provided the following information:

Sergeant Ulrich was assigned in District 1 with a scheduled duty shift to begin at 1400 hours on Saturday, January 28, 2012 and conclude at 0200 hours on Sunday 29, 2012. District 1 does not include the area of Paynes Prairie south of Gainesville.

Ulrich recalls that the fire was reported after Ulrich's shift was on duty and recalls information from Lieutenant Maynard that there was a fire on Paynes Prairie and "you could see the smoke from the Interstate." Ulrich responded to the area and observed the fire department on scene.

At the time of the reported crash on US 441 at approximately 2330 hours, Ulrich responded to that scene and observing the "thick smoke" and that you "couldn't see anything."

After the report of the crash on the Interstate a short time later, Ulrich responded to that scene. Ulrich recalls that other Deputies, along with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) were there before his arrival.

Ulrich remained on the Interstate along the area of the Prairie, conducting a "roving" patrol the remainder of the shift.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 29
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/19/2012	Activity End Date:03/19/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Sergeant Scott Ulrich, ACSO - Interview

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At approximately 0330 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012 Ulrich and his shift were released from duty. The shift was scheduled to conclude at 0200 hours but the shift was held on duty "because of the smoke."

Ulrich was not asked nor did he offer any thoughts concerning the re-opening to any representative of the Florida Department of Transportation or FHP. Ulrich stated that he "was very shocked that they opened it up" adding that "that time in the morning with the conditions the way they were, I was very surprised." Ulrich stated, "it just appeared like it was too dangerous, the smoke was, you know a few seconds it would be there, a few seconds it wouldn't, it was going back and forth." Ulrich recalls a comment that FHP Lieutenant Gourley had driven the area and Gourley reportedly said it was okay to be opened.

Ulrich does not recall any conversation by ACSO Lieutenant Moran or contact by the any FHP member requesting ACSO deputies to assist in monitoring the roadway after the Interstate was re-opened.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
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This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Tuesday, March 20, 2012 an interview was conducted of Duty Officer Supervisor (DOS) Ronald G. Cooper of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Jacksonville Regional Communication Center (JRCC), 908 North Jefferson Street, Building F, Jacksonville, FL. The audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder commenced at approximately 1703 hours and concluded at approximately 1728 hours.

The summary of the interview of Cooper is as follows:

Cooper was on duty as a Duty Officer Supervisor at the JRCC on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Cooper's duty shift began at 1330 hours and ended at 2130 hours.

The January 28, 2012, 2002 hours telephone from the Florida Forest Service to the JRCC was discussed. Cooper does not specially recall receiving the telephone call. The summary of the telephone call was read to Cooper along with the CAD notes entered by Cooper into the Paynes Prairie Fire CAD incident.

01/28/12 20:02 - JRCC DO Cooper receives call from a Florida Forest Service (FFS)Duty Officer (DO):

FFS DO: (Asked to speak to someone about fire in Alachua County on 441)

DOS Cooper: (tells him to go ahead)

FFS DO: Just wanted to let you know that we are leaving the site. Currently there is no smoke on 441 or 75 that we can determine, but during the night that is still going to put out a lot of smoke and the incident commander just wanted to make sure y'all are going to patrol it cause you might have to close toward morning time.

Cooper: Ok, I'll make a note and pass it off to the midnight people when they come in a 10:00.

FFS DO: I really appreciate it. We don't know what it's gonna do, weather wise, so that thing is pretty close to 441 and 75 and we don't want any major accidents.

Cooper: That's a fact. Ok, sir, we'll take care of it.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 30
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/20/2012	Activity End Date:03/20/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Duty Officer Cooper, FHP - Interview

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IR Number	30

DOS Cooper's CAD note entered at 20:04:10 hours documenting the FFS contact: "No smoke present at 2003...DOF is requesting we have troopers check all during the night."

Cooper advised that the CAD note entry that he placed in the CAD Incident was sufficient to report the information received from the Forest Service. Cooper advised that he "passed it on to the person working the Gainesville console that night, which was Duty Officer Skinner, then he passed it on to his relief when his relief came in." Cooper stated that Skinner was at the Gainesville "console at that time so I just putting my notes in the CAD and told him to read CAD."

Cooper discussed the training that the duty officers receive and stated that "normally they work at each shift for one month at a time and during that one month on each shift they're moved around from various console to console." Cooper added that the duty officers "work every console during that four or five months during training." During this time the duty officers become acquainted with the geography of the areas covered by the individual consoles.

Cooper explained that an incoming telephone calls to the JRCC, may be answered by any duty officer on duty and then that duty officer may add an entry into the CAD notes on any open CAD incident in any of the eighteen counties covered by the JRCC. Cooper advised that "most time we will add notes to let the person know we added notes to your he can read it."

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On Thursday, March 22, 2012, an interview was conducted of Sergeant Mark Weber of the Florida Highway Patrol assigned to the Troop B, Gainesville Station, 6300 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL. The sworn audio recorded interview, conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder commenced at approximately 0855 hours and was concluded at approximately 0936 hours.

In summary, the interview of Sergeant Weber is as follows:

Weber was on duty as the District Sergeant for Troop B on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Weber's shift started at 1400 hours and was scheduled to end at 2200 hours.

After reporting for duty, Weber responded to a "minor crash in Micanopy on the south end of 441." As the crash investigation was being completed, Weber received the report of a fatality "involving a vehicle totally engulfed in flames at about the 405 mile marker southbound on I-75."

As Weber drove north on US 441 from the earlier crash scene in Micanopy, Weber traveled into the Paynes Prairie area and observed a brush fire along the right side of the roadway. Weber observed "a big red fire truck in the right lane that was blocking the right lane with its lights on." Weber "saw smoke off to the right" and "personnel all around."

Weber continued to the scene of the fatality crash scene near the 405 mile marker on Interstate 75. Weber remained there "the whole time" and did not "clear it till just around dusk."

After departing the 405 mile marker fatality crash scene, Weber traveled to US 441 and the area of the brush fire that he had observed earlier in the day. Weber noted that he did not recall receiving any information concerning the fire during day and "just went through there later in the night to double check cause I haven't heard much" and "to check on my own."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 31
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/22/2012	Activity End Date:03/22/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Sergeant Mark Weber, FHP - Interview

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At that time, Weber seeing "hardly any smoke" closed the CAD incident. The CAD indicates the fire incident was closed at 2028 hours.

After listening to the recording of the 2003 hours, January 28, 2012 telephone call from the Florida Forest Service (FFS), Weber advised that "I would have definitely changed my decision" to close the CAD incident. Weber added that "you would probably leave that CAD open so the midnight man can run through there periodically and have a look."

Weber is familiar with the Policy 17.14, Shift Commander Protocol. Weber's understanding was that "shift commanders were in the radio rooms" and "we don't have radio room lieutenants."

Weber advised he was not familiar with "what LORVI (Low Visibility Occurrence Risk Index) was until after this incident occurred." Weber recalls asking a duty officer supervisor for a "LVORI and a spot check for another fire" in Levy County a week or so later after the Alachua County incident. The duty officer supervisor contacted was not familiar with LVORI.

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On Thursday, March 22, 2012, an interview was conducted of Trooper Tim Strickland of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Troop B, Gainesville Station, 6300 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL. The sworn audio recorded interview, conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder commenced at approximately 1345 hours and was concluded at approximately 1359 hours.

In summary, the interview of Strickland is as follows:

Strickland was working an off-duty security detail on Saturday, January 28, 2012, which involved patrolling the two rest areas on Interstate 75 just south of the exit 382. Strickland's security detail shift began at 2000 hour on Saturday, January 28, 2012 and ended at 0600 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

Strickland was aware of the crashes on the Interstate and was going to assist but observed that Trooper Todd "was going to have plenty of help down there so I just stayed" at the rest area security post.

Strickland advised that it was not until midnight that he noticed any change in the conditions across the Prairie. He "thought it was fog rolling in" and then in making "a round with the you know, the rest area, I could smell the smoke."

Strickland was in the northbound rest area alongside Todd who was completing a press release at the time of the 0400 hours report of a crash on the Interstate.

Strickland stated "My opinion, when the it was decided to reopen the road I didn't see anything else other than to reopen it cause it looked pretty clear."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 32
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/22/2012	Activity End Date:03/22/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Trooper Tim Strickland, FHP - Interview

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On Thursday, March 22, 2012, an interview was conducted of Trooper Michael Todd of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Troop B, Gainesville Station, 6300 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL. The sworn audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder, commenced at approximately 1257 hours and was concluded at approximately 1318 hours.

In summary, the interview of Todd is as follows:

Trooper Todd was on duty on Saturday, January 28, 2012, assigned to the shift starting at 2200 hours and ending at 0600 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

Todd recalls checking he CAD notes at the beginning of the shift and only noting that there was smoke or a brush fire in Gilchrist County with nothing being listed in Alachua County.

Todd advised that he was investigating a 2300 hours crash which occurred on Interstate 75 just south of State Road 26, Newberry Road at the time the 2330 hours crash was reported on US 441 in the Paynes Prairie. As Todd was completing his crash investigation, the Interstate 75 crash near the 380 mile marker was reported.

Todd proceeded south on the Interstate into the Prairie toward the crash scene and encountered "3 to 4 feet" of visibility "due to the smoke" and "advised to have the interstate shut down."

Todd advised that "Sergeant Simmons came to the scene to evaluate why I requested to have 75 shut down." Simmons then contacted Lieutenant Gourley who then responded to the scene.

After completing the crash report, Todd began to escort vehicles that had been in the southbound rest area, south through the Prairie, because the "smoke was lifting." Todd

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 33
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/22/2012	Activity End Date:03/22/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Trooper Michael Todd, FHP - Interview

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recalls Gourley saying that they are probably opening the roadway up because it was clearing up.

After driving south through the Prairie and escorting vehicles south, Todd returned to the northbound rest area to complete the press release on the crash. Todd noted that during the drive north "through the Prairie, it was clear." At the rest area, Todd observed FHP Trooper Tim Strickland who was working an off-duty detail as security in the rest areas.

Todd commented that "if I felt it was still smoky or something like that and if I heard the Lieutenant say open it up, I would advise him on the radio that it was still a visibility problem. But there wasn't at the time I had gone through." Todd added that he "saw absolutely no smoke in the area all the way up to the rest area at the 381."

Todd, who was still in the northbound rest area, was the first trooper to respond to the report of crashes on the Interstate at approximately 0400 hours after the roadway had been re-opened at approximately 0330 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

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This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Tuesday, March 20, 2012, an interview was conducted of Duty Officer (DO) Rickey Skinner of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Jacksonville Regional Communication Center (JRCC), 908 North Jefferson Street, Building F, Jacksonville, FL. The audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder, commenced at approximately 1735 hours and concluded at approximately 1756 hours.

The summary of the interview of Skinner is as follows:

DO Skinner was on duty on Saturday, January 28, 2012, working the swing shift starting at 1325 hours and ending at 2125 hours. Skinner was assigned to the Alachua console in the communication center.

Skinner received a telephone call from a Department of Environmental Protection officer who reported a fire in Paynes Prairie at approximately 1447 hours. The location of the fire was reported as on US 441 "just south of the boardwalk." Skinner contacted Alachua County Fire who advised that they were on scene of the fire.

FHP Sergeant Weber advised Skinner at approximately 1523 hours that "there was heavy smoke across US 441 at Paynes Prairie." At approximately 1525 hours, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) advised they were "en route with the road crews and signs for traffic control." Additionally, this information was provided to FHP Lieutenant Gourley.

At approximately 2004 hours, FHP Duty Officer Supervisor (DOS) Ronald Cooper placed a CAD note in the Paynes Prairie fire incident after receiving a telephone call from the Florida Forest Service (FFS). The CAD note was as follows: "No smoke present at 2003...DOF is requesting we have troopers check all during the night."

At approximately 2029 hours Sergeant Weber provided information that the Paynes Prairie fire was out, that there was no smoke in the area and all units had departed the scene. At the direction of Weber, the Prairie fire CAD incident was closed.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 34
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/20/2012	Activity End Date:03/20/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Duty Officer Rickey Skinner, FHP - Interview

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The transcript of the 2004 hours telephone call from FFS Duty Officer David McCarty received by Cooper was provided to Skinner, which is as follows:

McCarty: Just wanted to let you know that we are leaving the site. Currently there is no smoke on 441 or 75 that we can determine, but during the night that is still going to put out a lot of smoke and the incident commander just wanted to make sure y'all are going to patrol it cause you might have to close toward morning time.

Cooper: Ok, I'll make a note and pass it off to the midnight people when they come in a 10:00.

McCarty: I really appreciate it. We don't know what it's gonna do, weather wise, so that thing is pretty close to 441 and 75 and we don't want any major accidents.

Cooper: That's a fact. Ok, sir, we'll take care of it.

Skinner does not recall receiving any additional information concerning the details of the FFS telephone call other than the CAD note entered by Cooper at 2004 hours.

Skinner stated that the details of the FFS telephone call of 2004 hours, would have been shared with Weber if Skinner had known the details. Skinner believes that Weber would have not chosen to close the Prairie fire CAD incident at 2028 hours if the details had been provided.

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On Friday, March 23, 2012, an interview was conducted of Lieutenant (Lt) John Gourley of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Troop B, Gainesville Sub-District Office, 6300 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL., 32653-2117. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL.

The audio recorded sworn interview of Lieutenant Gourley was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The interview commenced at approximately 0912 hours and concluded at approximately 1007 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

Gourley provided clarity and additional details to the interview statement of Thursday, February 9, 2012.

In summary Lieutenant Gourley provided the following information:

Gourley and Sergeant Weber spoke earlier in Weber's shift with an assessment of the fire as being "there wasn't a whole lot to it." Weber was responding to a fatal crash scene at the time of his observation. Gourley stated that if the fire had been a "major concern" that it would have been "brought to either my attention or the captain's or somebody's attention." Gourley added that it "was not every relayed."

Gourley does recall the 2002 telephone call from Florida Forest Service (FFS) being brought to his attention and a review did not find any "record that the sergeant that was on duty that night was made aware of the particular call at 8:02 that that was relayed out what that information was to anybody on duty."

At the time just prior to the decision to reopen Interstate 75 at 0330 hours, Gourley and Sergeant Simmons were together. Gourley said that Simmons stated that "if we open the road we may have to close it again." Gourley remarked his concerns of detouring traffic to a two lane roadway; motorists going into areas with no familiarity; traffic slowing for the lane

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 35
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/23/2012	Activity End Date:03/23/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Lieutenant John Gourley, FHP - Interview

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transitions; and motorists not expecting the road closure. Gourley maintains that Simmons did not express any thoughts of negativity concerning reopening the roadway and "never said I wouldn't" open the roadway.

Concerning the monitoring of the Interstate after the reopening, Gourley advised he contacted Alachua County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Powers and asked for assistance. Gourley recalled that Powers advised "that's no problem on the Interstate to help monitor the roadway." Gourley added that Trooper Todd, "an experienced trooper" would stay on the Interstate and that Trooper Brewington, a day shift trooper was called in to duty early and Brewington would be directed "to the Interstate."

Gourley recalls the January 31, 2012, conversation in the parking lot of the Gainesville Station with Captain Fincher and Sergeant Simmons. Fincher and Simmons were speaking to each other prior to Gourley joining the conversation. Gourley advised that Simmons "looked at me and said I want to apologize to you, I said some things that night, you know that is on my camera that, you know I shouldn't have said, I didn't mean and you know I just wanted to apologize to you about the roadway." Gourley "did not know until a day or two later actually that what was said" by Simmons.

Gourley stated that Simmons "never told me I know this was going to happen or not to open the road." Gourley added that if Simmons had made those comments, Gourley may have made the same decision to open the roadway because Gourley "was the one in charge" and that Gourley "had the whole situation" to consider.

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On Friday, March 23, 2012, an interview was conducted of Trooper Byron Johnson, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Troop B, Gainesville Sub-District Office, 6300 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32653-2117. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Florida Highway Patrol, Ocala Station, 600 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471-2688.

The audio recorded sworn interview of Trooper Johnson was conducted by SA Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The audio recorded interview commenced at approximately 1347 hours and concluded at approximately 1426 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Trooper Johnson provided the following information:

Johnson was on duty as a Trooper assigned to patrol duties in Marion County on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Johnson's shift began at 2300 hours on January 28, 2012 and was scheduled to end at 0700 hours on January 29, 2012.

Johnson was contacted by the Jacksonville Regional Communications Center (JRCC) to "assist with several crashes that had taken place on State Road 93, also known as I-75, about the 380, 381 mile marker." Johnson arrived at the scene of the crash and then was redirected to the 374 mile marker, the "Micanopy exit to assist in directing traffic off the road." Johnson advised that Trooper Andy Persaud instructed him to the Micanopy exit.

Johnson stated that all northbound traffic lanes had been closed and detoured off at the Micanopy exit and that signs along with cones were in place to merge all three lanes into the off ramp.

Johnson stated that at approximately 0230 hours or 0235 hours, he returned to Marion County. Johnson advised that no one instructed him to depart the post at the 374 mile marker and remarked "at that time, we had no direct direction to leave that post."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 36
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/23/2012	Activity End Date:03/23/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Trooper Byron Johnson, FHP - Interview

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Lieutenant Gourley attempted radio contact with Johnson at approximately 0307 hours with negative results. Johnson's comment to this negative contact was "probably just bad radio communication."

Johnson was requested to return to Alachua County due to the report of the 0400 hours crashes on the Interstate. Johnson did not report to Alachua County but was posted at the 368 mile marker which is the exit at County Road 318 in northern Marion County. At this post the northbound traffic was again detoured from the Interstate.

A memorandum dated February 10, 2012, authored by Major Gene S. Spaulding was discussed with Johnson. Spaulding states in the memorandum that Johnson questioned the reopening of the Interstate stating that visibility was at zero. Johnson does not recall speaking to Spaulding as the memorandum asserts and stated that, "I have not had any speakings with the Major."

Johnson explained that "visibility being zero when I arrived on the scene the first time, which was my only time at that location, visibility was zero at that time."

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On Wednesday, March 28, 2012, an interview was conducted of Major Gene S. Spaulding, District Commander, Troop B, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), 1350 West Highway US 90, Suite 101, Lake City, FL 32055. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Florida Highway Patrol, Ocala Station, 600 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL. 34471-2688.

The audio recorded sworn interview of Major Spaulding was conducted by SA Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The audio recorded interview commenced at approximately 1050 hours and concluded at approximately 1129 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Major Spaulding provided the following information:

Spaulding is the Troop Commander for Troop B which encompasses nine counties and includes Alachua County. Spaulding was not aware of the reported brush fire in Paynes Prairie of Saturday afternoon, January 28, 2012. Spaulding was notified at approximately 0120 hours on January 29, 2012 of a crash on Interstate 75 and the "dispatcher did reference it to smoke on the Interstate."

Spaulding became aware of the 2002 hours telephone call on January 28, 2012 from the Florida Forest Service (FFS) to the Jacksonville Regional Communications Center (JRCC) "several days or maybe even a week after the fact." Spaulding acknowledged that he had reviewed the audio recording of the telephone call and the CAD notes entry. When asked if the telephone call was fully documented in the CAD, Spaulding stated, "The information was documented in the CAD."

Spaulding stated that Policy 17.14, Shift Commander Protocol, "was designed for the Lieutenants that were assigned shift commanders with an assignment to the Regional Communications Centers." Spaulding advised that it "is actually unclear in the policy" who is responsible for the requirements of the policy in the absence of a shift commander. Speaking specifically of the checklists included in the Policy 17.14, Spaulding stated that

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 37
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/28/2012	Activity End Date:03/28/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Major Gene Spaulding, FHP - Interview

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"technically these are not to be completed per se, these are guide, I believe the policy even references that these will be done as necessary" and then added "so it's not an iron clad mandatory."

Concerning training of Troopers for situations involving closing roads, re-opening roads, detouring traffic along with traffic being stopped due to stopped traffic, Spaulding offered the following comment: "There is training, advanced training offered, it's not mandated, through the Department of Transportation. We have our academy training and we have OJT training."

Spaulding advised he was familiar with the Highway Safety Smoke Management Interagency Agency. After reviewing a copy of the executed agreement dated June 6, 2009, Spaulding stated "actually I had not seen this, the one I saw was dated earlier."

Spaulding authored a February 10, 2012 memorandum directed to File concerning two incidents, one being comments made by Sergeant Simmons, which were captured on the in-car video recording and the second concerning statements made by Trooper Johnson to a Duty Officer in the Jacksonville Regional Communications Center.

Concerning the Simmons comments, Spaulding stated that Captain Fincher had contacted him and advised that Fincher had been approached by Simmons after a January 31, 2012 meeting at the Gainesville FHP Station. Fincher detailed the meeting as Simmons revealing the content of a video of Simmons making comments that would not "reflect positively on the Patrol and incident...that he basically spoke out of turn."

Spaulding advised that he had reviewed the actual video and listened to the audio of the recording. Spaulding stated that he notified the Chain of Command and "spoke with the Colonel and it was in our best interest, I thought at that point in time, just document it so that we would indicate that we did look into it" and then added "that this was the explanation that was given by the Sergeant and we didn't want to pursue it any further." Spaulding commented that "FDLE was assigned to look into things..."

Concerning the Johnson comments, Spaulding was reviewing material after the incident and discovered a conversation between Johnson and a Duty Officer. In the conversation Johnson questioned the road opening and Spaulding "felt compelled to address it in the memo."

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This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Wednesday, March 28, 2012, an interview was conducted of Trooper Bharat Persaud, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Troop B, Gainesville Sub-District Office, 6300 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32653-2117. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Florida Highway Patrol Station, Ocala Station, 600 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471-2688.

The audio recorded sworn interview of Trooper Persaud was conducted by SA Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The audio recorded interview commenced at approximately 1305 hours and concluded at approximately 1319 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Trooper Persaud provided the following information:

Persaud was on duty as a Trooper assigned to patrol duties in Marion County on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Persaud's shift began at 2300 hours on January 28, 2012 and was scheduled to end at 0700 hours on January 29, 2012.

Persaud was patrolling Interstate 75 in Marion County at the time of being contacted to assist with a crash investigation in Alachua County on the Interstate near Paynes Prairie which had been reported at approximately 2335 hours on January 28, 2012.

Upon arrival near midnight, Persaud maintained the crash scene while the crash investigation was completed by Trooper Michael Todd. Persaud observed the visibility as "pretty bad but as we got deeper, the visibility was getting worse." Persaud assisted Todd at the crash scene until approximately 0117 hours.

At approximately 0117 hours, Persaud returned to patrol duties in Marion County. Persaud advised, "At the time I left, it was zero" visibility.

Persaud spoke with Sergeant Simmons who advised Persaud that he could return to Marion County but did not have any conversation concerning the closing or re-opening of the

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 38
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/28/2012	Activity End Date:03/28/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Trooper Persaud, FHP - Interview

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roadway.

At the time of the 0400 hours crashes of January 29, 2012, Persaud was in Marion County and was requested to return to Alachua County to assist but was directed to divert traffic northbound at the 368 mile marker exit at County Road 318 in Marion County.

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This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Wednesday, March 28, 2012, an interview was conducted of Duty Officer Joyce Cooley of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Jacksonville Regional Communication Center (JRCC), 908 North Jefferson Street, Building F, Jacksonville, FL. The audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder, commenced at approximately 2254 hours and concluded at approximately 2304 hours.

The summary of the interview of Cooley is as follows:

Cooper was on duty as a Duty Officer at the JRCC on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Cooper's duty shift began at 2130 hours and ended at 0530 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

Cooley was assigned the Palatka console which covers Putnam, Saint Johns, and Flagler counties. Cooley did recall receiving a telephone call concerning the Alachua County area. Cooley states "the first call that I remember getting was someone calling advising that the roadway was bad, there was a lot fog, you couldn't see and if something wasn't done there was going to be a bad accident." Cooley recalls that telephone call was approximately the time frame of the first crashes.

Cooley advised that "we do a briefing, each console does their own individual briefing" and if there something "large" the Duty Officer Supervisor or the Acting Duty Officer Supervisor will provide a briefing. Cooley does not "remember right off hand what all was done on the turn over."

Cooley stated that during training as a duty officer she "learned all the counties that we dispatch for and in fact we do have a test on geography for your main roads."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 39
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/28/2012	Activity End Date:03/28/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Duty Officer Joyce Cooley, FHP - Interview

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Wednesday, March 28, 2012, an interview was conducted of Acting Duty Officer Supervisor Edward Sullivan of the Florida Highway Patrol assigned to the Jacksonville Regional Communication Center (JRCC), 908 North Jefferson Street, Building F, Jacksonville, FL. The audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder commenced at approximately 2140 hours and concluded at approximately 2229 hours.

The summary of the interview of Sullivan is as follows:

Sullivan was on duty as the Acting Duty Officer Supervisor on January 28, 2012. Sullivan's assigned shift began at 2130 hours and ended at 0530 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

Sullivan advised that the "off-going supervisor" Ronald Cooper provided Sullivan a briefing. The briefing included that "there may possibly be a need to possibly either close a road down or else divert traffic to another exit if the fog got too thick, but that there were troopers out checking the area at the time."

Sullivan stated that the information was provided "to the Gainesville console cause they would be the one that would initially be watching that area." Sullivan added that "all consoles in the pod could hear what I was saying cause I was standing there." Sullivan stated later in the interview that the briefing was "just a verbal pass down."

In describing the "pass down" Sullivan stated "just a general statement that there may be fog or smoke issues... on to Gainesville. And Gainesville console also let me know that there were gonna be...a trooper was gonna go down, they were gonna check the area for smog and foke, correction, for smoke and smoke."

Sullivan answered, "No sir" to being asked if it would surprise him that the "duty officer sitting at the console was unaware of any fire or any smoke situation in Alachua County that evening."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 40
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/28/2012	Activity End Date: 03/28/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Acting Duty Officer Supervisor Sullivan, FHP - Interview

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The 2002 hours telephone call on January 28, 2012, from the Florida Forest Service to the JRCC, specifically Cooper was detailed with Sullivan. After listening to the recording of the conversation and reviewing the 2004 hours CAD notes entered, Sullivan did not consider the CAD notes a fair summary of the telephone call. Sullivan comments to the question if the notes were a fair summary are as follows: "No, because he said to make sure somebody checks it but I wasn't aware...I would normally have the mid-night guy check the area" and "make sure they go down and check the area."

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Wednesday, March 28, 2012, an interview was conducted of Duty Officer Kevin Milner of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Jacksonville Regional Communication Center (JRCC), 908 North Jefferson Street, Building F, Jacksonville, FL. The audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder, commenced at approximately 1808 hours and concluded at approximately 1850 hours.

The summary of the interview of Milner is as follows:

Milner was on duty as the Duty Officer on January 28, 2012. Milner's assigned shift began at 2130 hours and ended at 0530 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012 and assigned duty on the Marion County console.

Milner does not recall specifically a briefing being provided on January 28, 2012 and stated "I just know that we usually get briefings on what calls are active, who's on duty, who's supposed to come out to duty, or who's coming off early, road closures, things like that."

Milner advised that the incoming Duty Officer Supervisor (DOS) provides the briefing to the oncoming shift after a briefing from the off-going DOS.

Being asked his awareness of a prairie fire in Alachua on January 28, 2012, Milner stated, "Well we had some smoke advisories, I know we had one for Putnam County, there was some in Alachua County but I mean I was aware of it, I seen the CAD call." Then Milner advised that the smoke advisories were "emails that the state sends out to us, says there's smoke advisories and fog advisories."

Milner stated that "Actually I don't recall seeing one or even knowing anything about fires in Alachua, fog I know about fog."

Commenting on training, Milner advised that "We're required to go to all of them when we

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 41
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/28/2012	Activity End Date: 03/28/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Duty Officer Milner, FHP - Interview

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go through the training and sit at least five, to sometimes a month at different stations, days to a month" to become familiar with the roads and the geography related to a the area.

During the evening of January 28-29, 2012 Milner commented several times that smoke in the Paynes Prairie area of Alachua County was a product of a fire in Putnam County. Milner stated that "Oh see I had no idea about that, the only thing I seen was the thing in Putnam."

When asked if Milner had received any information concerning the January 28, 2012, 2002 hours telephone call from the Florida Forest Service to the JRCC concerning the Paynes Prairie fire, Milner replied "I do not recall it, no." Milner added, "Well we were all talking with all the stuff going on and no one at all mentioned that there was fires in Alachua County earlier that day. We all assumed that it was coming from the fires, fire warnings and stuff that we had for Putnam County."

Milner stated that if he "had known that I would've definitely been telling the lieutenant and the sergeants the correct information, so."

Milner stated that "under the circumstances to but kinda seems like that call being closed out, that information really hurt us a lot."

Milner recalls the telephone contact with Trooper Johnson and advising Johnson to return to Alachua County due to the later crashes on the Interstate. Johnson asked about the roadway being open as when Johnson had departed earlier, all lanes were closed and the visibility was zero.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
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This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, April 5, 2012, an interview was conducted of Lieutenant Bruce Giles, of the Gainesville Police Department (GPD), 721 NW 6th Street, Gainesville, FL. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL. The sworn audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder, commenced at approximately 1336 hours and was concluded at approximately 1357 hours.

In summary, the interview of Lieutenant Giles is as follows:

Giles was the Shift Commander for shift four for the Gainesville Police Department on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Giles' shift began at 2200 hours.

Giles advised that he became aware of the initial crash on the Interstate on January 28, 2012 from GPD Lieutenant Jeff Blundell, shift three Shift Commander. Blundell and Giles discussed the relief of shift three personnel with shift four personnel.

Initially, GPD shift three personnel were assigned to assist at the Williston Road ramp to detour southbound traffic from Interstate 75. The shift three personnel were then relieved by shift four personnel. Giles advised that GPD was requested to block traffic from travelling south from Williston Road on to southbound US 441. Due to safety concerns this was not completed and a detour point was maintained at the Rocky Point Road intersection with Alachua County Sheriff's Office Deputies.

Giles responded to the Interstate at approximately 0130 hours along with Blundell. Giles advised that Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) "were handling most of the jobs on the ramp" and that "we needed to relieve officers on the interstate." Giles explained that ACSO personnel were at the ramp and GPD personnel were on the Interstate "channeling traffic towards the off ramp and not permitting them to travel south on the Interstate."

Giles advised that Giles had a conversation with Lieutenant Gourley, Florida Highway Patrol

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 42
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 04/05/2012	Activity End Date:04/05/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Lieutenant Giles, Gainesville PD - Interview

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(FHP) where Gourley said that "he was reopening the interstate, that the conditions had changed and he was reopening it." Giles was not asked for an opinion concerning the reopening of the roadway, stating that he "wasn't capable of making any decision even if he had asked me." Giles had not driven on the Interstate south of the Williston Road interchange.

Concerning monitoring the roadway after the reopening Giles stated that Gourley "did not ask us to monitor that, nor could we cause we weren't under mutual aid" and added "ASO could....could request."

Giles advised that if the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) "had responded a little bit quicker we would have already placed the cones and then the reopening probably wasn't going to be an issue, I don't know, but it seemed like a long time to get FDOT to respond."

Giles stated that at the time of the reopening of the Interstate at approximately 0330 hours on January 29, 2012, the GPD personnel that were assisting in the road closure, returned to their normal patrol duties in the City of Gainesville.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

At the request of Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Orlando Regional Operations Center (OROC) conducted an investigation of the government actions which occurred on January 28-29, 2012, in concert with the fatal traffic crashes on Interstate 75 in Alachua County.

The OROC Intelligence and Information Unit produced a spreadsheet of the Florida Highway Patrol Communications Summary. The spreadsheet was developed through analysis of the telephone and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) communication received by the Florida Highway Patrol Communications Center on January 28-29, 2012.

An electronic copy will be maintained in the Related Items Section of the case file

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 43
Author: Weir, Karen Dawn	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/28/2012	Activity End Date:04/11/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Analytical Assistance - FHP Communications Summary

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, April 5, 2012 an interview was conducted of Trooper Steven Downing of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Troop B, Gainesville Station, 6300 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL. The sworn audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder commenced at approximately 1205 hours and was concluded at approximately 1231 hours.

In summary, the interview of Trooper Downing is as follows:

Downing was on duty on Saturday, January 28, 2012 assigned to Alachua County with general patrol duties. Downing's shift began at 2200 hours and was scheduled to end at 0600 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

Downing, when assigned to midnight shift, would drive south on the Interstate from his residence in Lake City to the 374 exit to begin his shift. On January 28, 2012 during the drive south Downing stated that the conditions on the Interstate near the Prairie were "Clear, no sign of smoke, couldn't even smell it."

Downing stated that he had not received any indication from the CAD or the Communications Center upon going in-service that there had been a fire in the Prairie.

After reviewing the January 28, 2012, 2002 hours telephone call from the Florida Forest Service to the Jacksonville Regional Communications Center (JRCC) and then the 2004 hours CAD notes entry, Downing stated "I would've rather had more. I mean if they, if they believe that that could, you know, put out a lot more smoke at night, then I think that should definitely.....cause I think that was said on tape that he thinks that once nights hits the possibility of smoke to get worse, I think that should have been there."

Downing added that if that information had been provided, Downing would have checked US 441 too.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 44
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 04/05/2012	Activity End Date:04/05/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Trooper Downing, FHP - Interview

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Downing responded to the January 28, 2012, 2330 hours crash reported on US 441 and was in charge of completing the crash report. Upon arrival at the crash scene, Downing advised that visibility was "maybe 100 to 200 feet." At that time also, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office had closed US 441 to all traffic, both north and south bound.

Downing was still involved with completing the crash investigation report at the time of the reopening of the Interstate at approximately 0330 hours. Downing stated that he "didn't clear that 'till about 4:00."

Before the completion of the crash investigation, while waiting for the tow trucks to arrive, Downing did travel south from the crash scene to the County Road 234 and then returned to the crash scene. Downing does not recall traveling north from the crash scene on US 441 stating "I was gonna try to go back north but it was just too hard for me to drive and I wasn't going to chance it cause of the smoke."

Downing advised that "maybe an hour or so passed, after I'd been at the crash scene, it got so bad you could barely see the fire trucks that were still out in front of me."

Downing stated that the 0340 hours radio transmission to the JRCC concerning the visibility on US 441 that Downing "was either right there at it or somewhere around" the crash scene.

Downing recalls Gourley driving north on US 441 by the crash scene at approximately 0345 hours. Downing stated that Gourley asked how Downing was doing, to "make sure I was OK" and then Gourley continued north toward Rocky Point Road.

Downing did not respond to the Interstate crashes, stating that "I stayed on 441 until I went home that next morning around 8 or 9:00."

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This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, April 12, 2012 an interview was conducted of Trooper James Taylor of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Troop B, Lake City Station, 1350 West US 90, Suite 101, Lake City, FL. The interview was conducted in an office at the Lake City Station, FL. The sworn audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder commenced at approximately 1530 hours and was concluded at approximately 1558 hours.

In summary, the interview of Taylor is as follows:

Trooper Taylor was on duty on Saturday, January 28, 2012 assigned to the shift starting at 2200 hours and ending at 0600 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012. Taylor's primary duties were scheduled to be in Columbia County.

Taylor, at approximately 0030 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012 was contacted concerning responding to Alachua County at the Williston Road exit to assist in detouring southbound Interstate 75 onto State Road 121. Taylor arrived at the Williston Road exit, exit 382 at approximately 0100 hours.

At the time of Taylor's arrival, there was an Alachua County Sheriff's Office patrol unit along with two Gainesville Police Department patrol units posted at the Williston Road exit detouring southbound traffic from the Interstate. Taylor advised that traffic was being routed on to Williston Road and no traffic was permitted to travel southbound on Interstate 75 through Paynes Prairie.

Taylor maintained that traffic post and then assisted the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) upon their arrival at approximately 0300 hours. Prior to the arrival of FDOT, Taylor commented that there were times when southbound drivers would not detour to the ramp and would drive through the patrol units positioned to detour the traffic. The other patrol units posted at the ramp were questioning when was FDOT "gonna get here."

Upon arrival, FDOT began the work to transition the traffic flow at approximately three

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 45
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 04/12/2012	Activity End Date:04/12/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Trooper Taylor, FHP - Interview

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quarters of a mile north of the exit ramp. FDOT had placed a message board and 20 to 25 traffic cones when Taylor received a radio transmission from FHP Lieutenant Gourley to "just hold on a minute."

Taylor stated that Gourley advised that he had been "riding back and forth through the Prairie and everything was cleared out." Gourley then instructed Taylor to have FDOT "to pack it up but stay close."

After the roadway was reopened for traffic, Taylor assisted FDOT by staying "with them in my patrol car with my lights going until they got all their cones, which was probably 20 to 30 of them picked up."

After the assisting FDOT, Taylor then met Sergeant Simmons at the Perkins restaurant at the Newberry Road exit for a meal break. During this meal break, Simmons voiced his concerns about the reopening of the Interstate. Taylor stated that Simmons "didn't like the road being opened." Taylor described Simmons as "pretty adamant about it, he didn't like it." Taylor stated that Taylor thought from the conversation at Perkins with Simmons that if Gourley not been on scene, Simmons would have "kept the road closed."

During this meal break, Taylor and Simmons were notified of a crash on the Interstate. Simmons departed first and then Taylor departed, reporting to the Williston Road exit and assisted in the detour and the southbound lane closure.

Taylor remained at the Williston Road exit traffic post until being relieved at approximately 0800 hours Sunday, January 29, 2012 and Taylor then returned to Columbia County.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
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This Investigative Report is in reference to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) investigation of the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, April 5, 2012 an interview was conducted of Lieutenant Patrick Riordan of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Troop B, Cross City Station, 16106 SE Highway 19, Cross City, FL. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL. The sworn audio recorded interview was conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder commenced at approximately 0917 hours and was concluded at approximately 0959 hours.

In summary, the interview of Lieutenant Riordan is as follows:

Riordan was the Public Affairs Officer for Troop B on Saturday, January 28, 2012 and Sunday, January 29, 2012. Riordan has been re-assigned and is currently a District Lieutenant assigned to the Cross City Station.

Riordan was first notified at approximately 0500 hours on Sunday, January 29, 2012 of the events on Interstate 75 near Paynes Prairie in Alachua County. Riordan arrived on scene in Alachua County at approximately 0600 hours.

Riordan did not recall being aware of the reported brush fire of the afternoon of Saturday, January 28, 2012 in Paynes Prairie near US 441 south of Gainesville until after his arrival in Alachua County on Sunday.

Riordan is familiar with FHP Policy 17.14, Shift Commander Protocol. Riordan advised that this policy was established some time ago in concert with the joint or consolidated dispatch program. The Shift Commander Protocol was created with "4 to 5 Lieutenants assigned to the communications centers, strictly as the function, as a shift commander." These Lieutenants "might have been some additional side duties, such as, radar maintenance or evidence, or some administrative duties along their shift commander program." Riordan added that "their job was to sit in that radio room and monitor what went on during their shift, but since then that has been kind of disbanded."

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 46
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 04/05/2012	Activity End Date:04/05/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Lieutenant Riordan, FHP - Interview

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Commenting on the Checklists that are included in the Shift Commander Protocol policy, Riordan stated that it would be "the best course of action for a district supervisor" to follow in the "event that you had one these type of incidents, a major incident."

Riordan advised that he recalls receiving Low Visibility Occurrence Risk Index (LVORI) training approximately 12 to 13 years ago when he was assigned to Troop D in Orlando. Riordan stated that this training stemmed from the central Florida fires in 1998 or 1999 that involved Volusia County.

Riordan added that the FHP should consider assigning more than one public information officer to respond to the media inquiries that an event of this magnitude would generate.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

At the request of Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Orlando Regional Operations Center (OROC) conducted an investigation of the government actions which occurred on January 28-29, 2012 in concert with the fatal traffic crashes on Interstate 75 in Alachua County.

The OROC Intelligence and Information Unit produced an Incident Map depicting the time and location of the vehicle crashes, Paynes Prairie Fire, road closures, and the estimated locations of Fog/Smoke signs. The map was developed through analysis of radio dispatch recordings, telephone recordings, CAD information, interviews, and GPS tracking information.

An electronic copy will be maintained in the Related Items Section of the case file.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 47
Author: Weir, Karen Dawn	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 04/12/2012	Activity End Date:04/18/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Analytical Assistance - I-75 Incident Map

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to Governor Rick Scott, on Monday, January 30, 2012, directing the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to investigate the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Thursday, April 5, 2012, an interview was conducted of Sergeant Bruce D. Simmons of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Troop B, Cross City Station, 16106 SE Highway 19, Cross City, FL 32628. The interview was conducted in a conference room at the Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL.

Present during the audio recorded interview of Sergeant Simmons was Attorney Ryan J. Peters of the Law Office of Ryan J. Peters, 106 East Howard Street, Live Oak, FL, 32064 representing Simmons. Conducting the sworn audio recorded interview of Sergeant Simmons was Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder of the Orlando Regional Operations Center of FDLE. The interview commenced at approximately 1030 hours and concluded at approximately 1146 hours. A copy of the recording of the interview will be placed in the Related Items section of the case file.

In summary Sergeant Simmons provided the following information:

Simmons advised that after the Interstate was reopened for traffic at 0330 hours, he and Trooper Taylor met at a Perkins restaurant for a meal break. Simmons remarked that "I don't remember, we may we have" discussed Simmons' concerns voiced to Gourley earlier about the reopening of the Interstate.

Concerning the January 29, 2012, 0427 hours in-car video recording of Simmons' conversation with Alachua County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jake Skelly, Simmons stated that he had listened to it, by saying, "I heard it, I'm not proud of it, but I heard it." Simmons commented that he "got a little frustrated and a deputy had pulled up and I was talking with him." Simmons stated he was "a little more diplomatic with Lieutenant Gourley than I was the deputy." Simmons said, "My opinion was to leave it closed" and "I made that clear to Lieutenant Gourley.

Simmons was provided a copy of Captain Fincher's Memorandum, dated January 31, 2012 to review where Fincher detailed a January 31, 2012, meeting between Fincher and

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 48
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 04/05/2012	Activity End Date:04/05/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Sergeant Simmons, FHP - Interview

THIS REPORT IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE AGENCY TO WHICH IT WAS DISSEMINATED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS EITHER PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.

Case Number	IF-14-0001
IR Number	48

Simmons at the Gainesville FHP Station. Simmons first comment was that "I've never seen that."

In the meeting with Fincher on January 31, 2012, Simmons advised the conversation with Fincher was to inform Fincher of the recording of his conversation on the in-car video. Simmons said, "We didn't even talk about whether or not I agreed or disagreed. I told him that was on, on the video. We never said anything about the roadways."

Simmons said that his comments to the deputy were accurate and appropriate and not as described in the memorandum, as "inappropriate and inaccurate." Concerning the memorandums' statement that Simmons "in fact never made such comments to Lieutenant Gourley" not to reopen the roadway, Simmons stated that "is not true" and then adding "I did."

Simmons was provided a copy of Major Spaulding's memorandum, dated February 10, 2012 to review where Spaulding summarized the January 31, 2012 dated memorandum authored by Fincher. Spaulding's memorandum detailed certain comments attributed to Simmons to Fincher concerning Gourley reopening Interstate 75. Spaulding restated that Simmons "never told Lieutenant Gourley not to open the road."

Concerning the memorandums that were provided to review, Simmons stated that "Those letters are both inaccurate."

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

At the request of Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Orlando Regional Operations Center (OROC) conducted an investigation of the government actions which occurred on January 28-29, 2012 in concert with the fatal traffic crashes on Interstate 75 in Alachua County.

The OROC Intelligence and Information Unit produced a spreadsheet of the Florida Highway Patrol Dash Camera Data. The spreadsheet includes locations of the Florida Highway Patrol vehicles and analysis of the data included in the in-car dash camera videos.

An electronic copy will be maintained in the Related Items Section of the case file.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 49
Author: Weir, Karen Dawn	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/28/2012	Activity End Date:04/18/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Analytical Assistance - FHP Dash Cam Data

THIS REPORT IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE AGENCY TO WHICH IT WAS DISSEMINATED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS EITHER PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

At the request of Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Orlando Regional Operations Center (OROC) conducted an investigation of the government actions which occurred on January 28-29, 2012 in concert with the fatal traffic crashes on Interstate 75 in Alachua County.

The OROC Intelligence and Information Unit produced a spreadsheet of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office Dash Camera Data. The spreadsheet includes locations of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office vehicles and analysis of the data included in the in-car dash camera videos.

An electronic copy will be maintained in the Related Items Section of the case file.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 50
Author: Weir, Karen Dawn	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/28/2012	Activity End Date:04/19/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Analytical Assistance - Alachua County SO Dash Cam Data

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

At the request of Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Orlando Regional Operations Center (OROC) conducted an investigation of the government actions which occurred on January 28-29, 2012 in concert with the fatal traffic crashes on Interstate 75 in Alachua County.

The OROC Intelligence and Information Unit produced a timeline of events that occurred during the evening of January 28, 2012 to the fatal traffic crashes on January 29, 2012. The timeline was developed through analysis of radio dispatch recordings, telephone recordings, CAD information, interviews, and GPS tracking information.

An electronic copy will be maintained in the Related Items Section of the case file.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 51
Author: Weir, Karen Dawn	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 03/01/2012	Activity End Date:04/19/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Analytical Assistance - Timeline of Events

THIS REPORT IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE AGENCY TO WHICH IT WAS DISSEMINATED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS EITHER PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

This Investigative Report is in reference to Governor Rick Scott, on Monday, January 30, 2012 directing the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to investigate the circumstances and events which led to the closure and the re-opening of Interstate 75 south of Gainesville, Florida near the Paynes Prairie Preserve prior to a number of fatal crashes on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

On Wednesday, February 15, 2012 and then again on Thursday, April 5, 2012 an audio recorded interview was conducted of Sergeant Bruce D. Simmons of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) assigned to the Troop B, Cross City Station, 16106 SE Highway 19, Cross City, FL., 32628. Both interviews, conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tim H. Elder were held in a conference room at the Alachua Regional Service Center located at 14101 US Highway 441, Alachua, FL.

During both of these interviews Simmons was represented by Ryan J. Peters, Attorney at Law. At the conclusion of these interviews, Peters requested that certain items be provided to him, a list of items requested and provided is as follows:

A copy of the February 15, 2012 audio recorded voluntary interview of Simmons.

A copy of the April 5, 2012 sworn audio recorded voluntary interview of Simmons.

A copy of a January 31, 2012 Memorandum authored by Captain Coby D. Fincher directed to Major Gene S. Spaulding.

A copy of a February 10, 2012 Memorandum authored by Major Gene S. Spaulding directed to File.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 52
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 02/15/2012	Activity End Date:04/12/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Attorney Peters Document Request

THIS REPORT IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE AGENCY TO WHICH IT WAS DISSEMINATED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS EITHER PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

At the request of Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Orlando Regional Operations Center (OROC) conducted an investigation of the government actions which occurred on January 28-29, 2012 in concert with the fatal traffic crashes on Interstate 75 in Alachua County.

On April 19, 2012, a thumb drive containing copies of all transcripts and recorded interviews conducted by Special Agent Tim Elder was placed in the Related Items section of this case file.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 53
Author: Weir, Karen Dawn	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 04/19/2012	Activity End Date:04/19/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description: Interview Recordings and Transcripts

THIS REPORT IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE AGENCY TO WHICH IT WAS DISSEMINATED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS EITHER PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

On Friday, February 3, 2012 case IF-14-0001 was opened as a developmental case concerning the actions taken by governmental agency representatives prior to the January 29, 2012 fatal crashes on Interstate 75.

During the early morning hours of January 29, 2012, six traffic crashes occurred on Interstate 75 in Alachua County, Florida resulting in eleven fatalities. The crashes were the result of poor visibility in Paynes Prairie, a low-lying section of the interstate, south of Gainesville. Governor Rick Scott directed the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) conduct an investigation into the events which led to the fatal crashes and evaluate the protocols of involved government agencies.

FDLE evaluated the protocols of agencies involved in the events of January 28-29, 2012. FDLE also conducted an analysis of hundreds of hours of radio dispatch recordings, telephone recordings, Computer Aided Dispatch records, and audio/video recordings of the events. FDLE conducted interviews of dozens of sworn and civilian witnesses, each of whom had information pertinent to the investigation.

FDLE concludes that no member of the Florida Highway Patrol or other government agency acted with criminal intent when making decisions that impacted the events leading up to the fatal crashes of January 29, 2012. Rather, agency personnel acted in a manner which they believed was appropriate and in the best interest of restoring the safe and orderly flow of traffic to the roadways.

On Thursday, April 26, 2012 the final report was submitted to the Governor's office. All investigative activity has been completed and the case is Closed.

Case Number: IF-14-0001	Serial #: 54
Author: Elder, Timothy H.	Office: Orlando
Activity Start Date: 04/26/2012	Activity End Date:04/26/2012
Approved By: Banks, Daniel Patrick	

Description:Case Closing

THIS REPORT IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE AGENCY TO WHICH IT WAS DISSEMINATED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS EITHER PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Case Related Items Print

Case

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<u>Module</u>	<u>RI Seq #</u>	<u>Key 1 (Case #)</u>	<u>Key 2</u>	<u>Key 3</u>	<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Last Update Date</u>	<u>Last Update By</u>
Investigative Report	INV-1	IF-14-0001	2		FWFjan27-30.doc	NWS Weather Advisories	02/08/2012 15:14:30	Saldanha, Julio C
Investigative Report	INV-2	IF-14-0001	2		An Atmospheric Dispersion Index for Prescribed Burning.pdf	Atmospheric Dispersion Index	02/08/2012 15:16:51	Saldanha, Julio C
Investigative Report	INV-3	IF-14-0001	1		Governor'sChiefofStaff'sLetter2-2-2012.pdf	Governor's Chief of Staff's Letter, February 2, 2012	02/13/2012 14:50:02	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-4	IF-14-0001	14		NWS Fire Weather Forecast.pdf	Certified Copy of NWS Fire Weather Forecast	03/02/2012 14:29:26	Saldanha, Julio C
Investigative Report	INV-5	IF-14-0001	3		Lt Gourley FHP Interview Transcript 02092012.pdf	Transcript of Interview of FHP Lt Gourley on 02/09/2012	04/04/2012 12:28:07	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-6	IF-14-0001	4		Sgt Bruce D Simmons Transcript 02152012.pdf	Transcript of interview with Sgt Bruce Simmons on 02/15/2012	04/18/2012 09:16:54	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-7	IF-14-0001	6		Lt JJ Moran Transcript 02162012.pdf	Transcript of interview with Lt JJ Moran on 02/16/2012	04/18/2012 09:19:45	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-8	IF-14-0001	7		Lt Steve Maynard Transcript 02162012.pdf	Transcript of Lt Steve Maynard interview 02-16-2012	04/18/2012 09:23:06	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-9	IF-14-0001	10		Sgt Denise Scott ACSO Transcript 02242012.pdf	Transcript of Sgt Denise Scott 02-24-2012	04/18/2012 09:27:42	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-10	IF-14-0001	11		Sgt Kutner ACSO Transcript 02242012.pdf	Transcript of Sgt Brandon Kutner Interview 02-24-2012	04/18/2012 09:35:01	Elder, Timothy H.

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<u>Module</u>	<u>RI Seq #</u>	<u>Key 1 (Case #)</u>	<u>Key 2</u>	<u>Key 3</u>	<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Last Update Date</u>	<u>Last Update By</u>
Investigative Report	INV-11	IF-14-0001	12		Lt Oberlin ACSO Transcript 02242012.pdf	Transcript of Lt Oberlin interview 02-24-2012	04/18/2012 09:37:33	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-12	IF-14-0001	13		Sgt Powers ACSO Transcript 02242012.pdf	Transcript of Sgt Mike Powers interview 02-24-2012	04/18/2012 09:40:39	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-13	IF-14-0001	16		Martin FDOT 3-1-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Alan Martin Interview 03-01-2012	04/18/2012 09:42:39	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-14	IF-14-0001	17		Jeff DiMaggio Transcript 03082012.pdf	Transcript of Jeff Dimaggio interview 03-08-2012	04/18/2012 09:45:21	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-15	IF-14-0001	18		David Jowers Transcript 03082012.pdf	Transcript of David Jowers 03-08-2012	04/18/2012 09:53:21	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-16	IF-14-0001	19		Wayne Smith FFS 3-1-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Wayne Smith Interview 03-01-2012	04/18/2012 09:56:47	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-17	IF-14-0001	20		Rittenhouse Fl Forest Ser 3-1-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of James Rittenhouse Interview 03/01/2012	04/18/2012 09:58:43	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-18	IF-14-0001	21		Butch Hall Transcript 03-08-2012.pdf	Transcript of Butch Hall Interview 03-08-2012	04/18/2012 10:00:37	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-19	IF-14-0001	23		Shawn McCoy ACSO 3-19-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Sgt Shawn McCoy 03-19-2012	04/18/2012 10:02:37	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-20	IF-14-0001	24		Cpt Fincher FHP 3-16-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Cpt Fincher Interview 03-06-2012	04/18/2012 10:04:27	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-21	IF-14-0001	25		Lt Gonzalez FHP 3-20-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Lt Maritza Gonzalez Interview 03-20-2012	04/18/2012 10:06:37	Elder, Timothy H.

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<u>Module</u>	<u>RI Seq #</u>	<u>Key 1 (Case #)</u>	<u>Key 2</u>	<u>Key 3</u>	<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Last Update Date</u>	<u>Last Update By</u>
Investigative Report	INV-22	IF-14-0001	26		Pittman FHP 3-20-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Pittman interview 03-20-2012	04/18/2012 10:09:30	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-23	IF-14-0001	26		Pittman FHP 3-28-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Pittman interview 03-28-2012	04/18/2012 10:09:59	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-24	IF-14-0001	27		Skelly ACSO 3-19-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Deputy Skelly Interview 03-19-2012	04/18/2012 10:12:08	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-25	IF-14-0001	28		Stewart ACFR 02-24-2012 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of District Chief Larry Stewart 02-24-2012	04/18/2012 10:14:25	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-26	IF-14-0001	29		Ulrich ACSO 3-19-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Sgt Ulrich Interview 03-19-2012	04/18/2012 10:16:08	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-27	IF-14-0001	30		Cooper FHP 3-20-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Ronald Cooper Interview 03-20-2012	04/18/2012 10:18:26	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-28	IF-14-0001	31		Weber FHP 3-22-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Sgt Mark Weber Interview 03-22-2012	04/18/2012 10:19:47	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-29	IF-14-0001	32		Strickland FHP 3-22-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Tim Strickland Interview 03-22-2012	04/18/2012 10:21:32	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-30	IF-14-0001	33		Todd FHP 3-22-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Michael Todd Interview 03-22-2012	04/18/2012 10:23:02	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-31	IF-14-0001	34		Skinner FHP 3-20-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcription of Rickey Skinner Interview 03-20-2012	04/18/2012 12:42:30	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-32	IF-14-0001	35		Lt Gourley FHP 3-23-12.pdf	Transcript of Lt Gourley Interview 03-23-2012	04/18/2012 12:44:03	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-33	IF-14-0001	36		Johnson FHP 3-23-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Byron Johnson Interview 03-23-2012	04/18/2012 12:45:26	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-34	IF-14-0001	38		Persaud FHP 3-28-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Bharat Persaud Interview 03-28-2012	04/18/2012 12:48:55	Elder, Timothy H.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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<u>Module</u>	<u>RI Seq #</u>	<u>Key 1 (Case #)</u>	<u>Key 2</u>	<u>Key 3</u>	<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Last Update Date</u>	<u>Last Update By</u>
Investigative Report	INV-35	IF-14-0001	39		Cooley FHP 3-28-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Joyce Cooley Interview	04/18/2012 12:50:28	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-36	IF-14-0001	41		Milner FHP 3-28-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Kevin Milner Interview 03-28-2012	04/18/2012 12:52:08	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-37	IF-14-0001	44		Downing FHP 04-05-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Steven Downing Interview 04-05-2012	04/18/2012 12:54:36	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-38	IF-14-0001	37		Spaulding 3-28-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Major Spaulding Interview 03-28-2012	04/18/2012 12:58:21	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-39	IF-14-0001	5		Response from Marion County SO.pdf	Response letter from Marion County Sheriff's Office	04/18/2012 13:05:33	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-40	IF-14-0001	5		Item 2 - Involved Personnel.pdf	Item 2 - Involved Personnel	04/18/2012 13:07:35	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-41	IF-14-0001	5		Item 5 - CAD Event.pdf	Item 5 - CAD Records	04/18/2012 13:12:53	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-42	IF-14-0001	5		Item 6 - 4092 00 Special Notifications Other Agencies.pdf	Item 6 - Marion County Sheriff's Office Road Policies 4092 Special Notifications	04/18/2012 13:16:19	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-43	IF-14-0001	5		Item 6 - 4228 00 Traffic Crashes.pdf	Item 6 - Marion County Sheriff's Office Road Policies - 4228 Traffic Crashes	04/18/2012 13:18:13	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-44	IF-14-0001	5		Item 6 - 4230 00 Traffic Direction and Control.pdf	Item 6 - Marion County Sheriff's Office Road Policies - 4230 Traffic Direction	04/18/2012 13:19:25	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-45	IF-14-0001	5		Item 6 - 4245 00 Hazardous Roadway Conditions.pdf	Item 6 - Marion County Sheriff's Office Road Policies - 4245 Hazardous Roadway	04/18/2012 13:20:25	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-46	IF-14-0001	5		Visio-I-75 Major	Item 6 - Marion County Sheriff's Office	04/18/2012	Elder,

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<u>Module</u>	<u>RI Seq #</u>	<u>Key 1 (Case #)</u>	<u>Key 2</u>	<u>Key 3</u>	<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Last Update Date</u>	<u>Last Update By</u>
					Accident.pdf	- Flowchart for Major Accident	13:22:22	Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-47	IF-14-0001	5			Items 7 & 8 - Marion County Sheriff's Office CD containing phone and radio communications	04/18/2012 13:28:47	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-48	IF-14-0001	5		Items 7 & 8 Communications Timeline.pdf	Items 7 & 8 - Marion County Sheriff's Office Communications Timeline for files on CD	04/18/2012 13:33:46	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-49	IF-14-0001	9		Item 1 - ACSO REPORT 12-904.pdf	Item 1 - Alachua County SO Incident Report	04/18/2012 13:38:37	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-50	IF-14-0001	9		Item 1 - ACSO REPORT 12-905.pdf	Item 1 - Alachua County SO Incident Report	04/18/2012 13:39:11	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-51	IF-14-0001	9		Item 2 - ACSO 2012 MASTER ROSTER Updated 010112.pdf	Item 2 - Alachua County SO Master Roster	04/18/2012 13:40:37	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-52	IF-14-0001	9		Item 2 - ACSO attendance roster.pdf	Item 2 - Alachua County SO Attendance Roster	04/18/2012 13:41:12	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-53	IF-14-0001	9		Item 3 - ACSO Assignments.pdf	Item 3 - Alachua County SO Assignments	04/18/2012 13:42:15	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-54	IF-14-0001	9		Item 4 - ACSO Chain of Command Notifications.pdf	Item 4 - Alachua County SO Chain of Command Notifications	04/18/2012 13:44:12	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-55	IF-14-0001	9		Item 4 - ACSO IOC- Oberlin Command Notifications SR 93.pdf	Item 4 - Alachua County So Oberlin Command Notifications	04/18/2012 13:45:54	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-56	IF-14-0001	9		Item 5 - ACSO Fire Incident Reports (1).	Item 5 - Alachua County Fire Incident Reports 1	04/18/2012 13:47:14	Elder, Timothy H.

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<u>Module</u>	<u>RI Seq #</u>	<u>Key 1 (Case #)</u>	<u>Key 2</u>	<u>Key 3</u>	<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Last Update Date</u>	<u>Last Update By</u>
					pdf			
Investigative Report	INV-57	IF-14-0001	9		Item 5 - ACSO Fire Incident Reports (2).pdf	Item 5 - ACSO Fire Incident Reports 2	04/18/2012 13:48:08	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-58	IF-14-0001	9		Item 5 - ACSO Law Enfor Incident Reports (1).pdf	Item 5 - Alachua County SO Law Enforcement Incident Reports 1	04/18/2012 14:07:52	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-59	IF-14-0001	9		Item 5 - ACSO Law Enfor Incident Reports (2).pdf	Item 5 - Alachua County So Law Enforcement Incident Reports 2	04/18/2012 14:08:45	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-60	IF-14-0001	9		Item 5 - ACSO Law Enfor Incident Reports (3).pdf	Item 5 - Alachua County SO Law Enforcement Incident Reports 3	04/18/2012 14:09:26	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-61	IF-14-0001	9		Item 5 - ACSO Systems Records.pdf	Item 5 - Alachua County SO System Records	04/18/2012 14:10:07	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-62	IF-14-0001	9			Items 7 and 8 - Alachua County SO Communications Center Calls and Radio Traffic	04/19/2012 08:24:37	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-63	IF-14-0001	9			Item 9 - Alachua County SO CDs of Dash Cam Video	04/19/2012 08:29:46	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-64	IF-14-0001	9		Item 10 - ACSO IOC-Night Shift Location and Assignments.pdf	Item 10 - Alachua County SO Night Shift Assignments	04/19/2012 08:36:10	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-65	IF-14-0001	9		Item 10 - ACSO IOC-SR 93 Dayshift Crash Assignments.pdf	Item 10 - Alachua County So Day Shift Assignments	04/19/2012 08:36:57	Elder, Timothy H.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Case Related Items Print

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<u>Module</u>	<u>RI Seq #</u>	<u>Key 1 (Case #)</u>	<u>Key 2</u>	<u>Key 3</u>	<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Last Update Date</u>	<u>Last Update By</u>
Investigative Report	INV-66	IF-14-0001	9		Item 12 - ACSO IOC-SR 93 Crash After Action Cover Sheetl.pdf	Item 12 - Alachua County So After Action Cover Sheet	04/19/2012 08:39:45	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-67	IF-14-0001	9		Item 12 - ACSO I-75 crash Moran Final.pdf	Item 12 - Alachua County SO Moran After Action	04/19/2012 08:40:38	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-68	IF-14-0001	9		Item 12 - ACSO IOC-SR 93 Crash After Action Final.pdf	Item 12 - Alachua County SO After Action Final	04/19/2012 08:41:31	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-69	IF-14-0001	9		Item 12 - ACSO Oberlin I-75 incident.pdf	Item 12 - Alachua County SO Oberlin After Action	04/19/2012 08:42:19	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-70	IF-14-0001	22		Item 2 - GPD Employee List.pdf	Item 2 - Gainesville PD Employee List	04/19/2012 08:43:54	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-71	IF-14-0001	22		Item 6 - GPD Road Closure Policy.pdf	Item 6 - Gainesville Road Closure Policy	04/19/2012 08:44:44	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-72	IF-14-0001	42		Lt Giles 04-05-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Lt Giles 04-05-12 Interview	04/19/2012 08:57:33	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-73	IF-14-0001	46		Lt Riordan FHP 4-5-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Lt Riordan Interview on 04-05-2012	04/19/2012 08:59:09	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-74	IF-14-0001	45		Taylor FHP 4-12-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of James Taylor Interview on 04-12-2012	04/19/2012 09:01:08	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-75	IF-14-0001	40		Sullivan 03-28-2012 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Sullivan Interview 03-28-2012	04/19/2012 09:02:51	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-76	IF-14-0001	48		Sgt Bruce D Simmons FHP 4-5-12 Transcript.pdf	Transcript of Sgt Simmons Interview 04-05-2012	04/19/2012 09:04:11	Elder, Timothy H.

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<u>Module</u>	<u>RI Seq #</u>	<u>Key 1 (Case #)</u>	<u>Key 2</u>	<u>Key 3</u>	<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Last Update Date</u>	<u>Last Update By</u>
Investigative Report	INV-77	IF-14-0001	22			Items 7, 8 & 9 - CDs of Communications Calls, Radio Traffic and Dash Cam Videos	04/19/2012 09:09:35	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-78	IF-14-0001	22		Item 12 - GPD After Action Report.pdf	Item 12 - City of Gainesville After Action	04/19/2012 09:10:56	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-79	IF-14-0001	43		FHP Communications Timeline.pdf	FHP Communications Spreadsheet	04/19/2012 09:24:24	Weir, Karen Dawn
Investigative Report	INV-80	IF-14-0001	47		I-75 Incident Map.pdf	Incident Map	04/19/2012 09:36:35	Weir, Karen Dawn
Investigative Report	INV-81	IF-14-0001	49		FHP_Dash Camera Data.pdf	FHP Dash Cam Data Analysis	04/19/2012 09:53:10	Weir, Karen Dawn
Investigative Report	INV-82	IF-14-0001	50		ASO_Dash Cam Data.xls	Alachua County SO Dash Cam Analysis	04/19/2012 09:58:49	Weir, Karen Dawn
Investigative Report	INV-83	IF-14-0001	51		Timeline of Events.pdf	Timeline	04/19/2012 10:11:22	Weir, Karen Dawn
Investigative Report	INV-84	IF-14-0001	53			Thumbdrive with Transcripts and Interviews	04/19/2012 12:27:27	Weir, Karen Dawn
Investigative Report	INV-85	IF-14-0001	52		AttPetersLetter-Simmons2-28-12.pdf	Letter to Att Peters, March 1, 2012	04/23/2012 07:57:16	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-86	IF-14-0001	52		AttPetersLetter-Simmons4-11-12.pdf	Letter to Att Peters - April 12, 2012	04/23/2012 07:58:43	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-87	IF-14-0001	28		Imag205.JPG	Stewart Photo of Scene - 1	04/23/2012 12:58:14	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-88	IF-14-0001	28		Imag206.JPG	Stewart Photo of Scene - 2	04/23/2012 12:59:58	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-89	IF-14-0001	28		Imag207.JPG	Stewart Photo of Scene - 3	04/23/2012	Elder,

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<u>Module</u>	<u>RI Seq #</u>	<u>Key 1 (Case #)</u>	<u>Key 2</u>	<u>Key 3</u>	<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Last Update Date</u>	<u>Last Update By</u>
							13:02:23	Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-90	IF-14-0001	28		Imag208.JPG	Stewart Photo of Scene - 4	04/23/2012 13:03:39	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-91	IF-14-0001	28		Imag2101.JPG	Stewart Photo of Scene - 5	04/23/2012 13:04:33	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-92	IF-14-0001	28		Imag2131.JPG	Stewart Photo of Scene - 6	04/23/2012 13:05:53	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-93	IF-14-0001	9		Alachua County SO Request.pdf	ACSO Request Letter	04/25/2012 12:57:40	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-94	IF-14-0001	5		Marion County SO Request.pdf	Marion County SO Request Letter	04/25/2012 12:59:50	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-95	IF-14-0001	22		Gainesville Police Department Request.pdf	Gainesville PD Request Letter	04/25/2012 13:01:54	Elder, Timothy H.
Investigative Report	INV-96	IF-14-0001	54		Interstate 75 Investigation Final Report4-26-12.pdf	January 2012 Interstate 75 Incident Review, April 26, 2012	04/30/2012 10:47:04	Elder, Timothy H.